

Cairo court acquits preacher

CAIRO (AP) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 47 of his extremist followers were acquitted Saturday by an emergency state security court for lack of evidence and discrepancy in witnesses accounts, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. This is the third time the blind preacher is acquitted of charges leveled against him by the government. Abdul Rahman was tried and acquitted in a case connected to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat by extremists and in the trial of 300 involved in a subsequent coup attempt in the southern city of Assiut. In 1981, the government charged but could not prove that the Sheikh instigated Sadat's murder by telling his followers he had abandoned Islam. This time, the Sheikh allegedly led an anti-government demonstration in April 1989 in the southern town of Fayoum. He and 47 others were charged with illegal possession of weapons, attempting to kill a police officer, and assault on individuals and public property. The charges were punishable by death. MENA reported the court acquitted all the 48 for "lack of sufficient evidences and discrepancy in witnesses accounts."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Ayatollah: Iran will fight U.S.

TEHRAN (R) — A top Iranian said in a sermon published Saturday Iran would regard the United States as the main enemy and fight against it if war broke out in the Gulf. "If war starts in the region the Iranian people will regard America as the main enemy and aggressor and will definitely fight with this cause of corruption and crime, which trained warmongers such as Saddam (Hussein of Iraq), Ayatollah Ali Meshkini told a Friday prayer gathering in the holy city of Qom. Meshkini, a member of the influential Council of Experts clerical assembly, derided "reactionary... Arab governments who for years plundered Muslim resources and transferred them to personal bank accounts." Now they are spending them on behalf of America against their own nation," Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a fiery speech Wednesday that the fight against U.S. forces in the Gulf amounted to a holy war.

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King receives Brazilian message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from the Brazilian president. The message was delivered at the Royal Court by Brazilian envoy Paulo Tarso de Lima. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended the audience. Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem conferred with Tarso de Lima and another Brazilian envoy, Antonio Sampaio, who are on a tour of the Middle East region to discuss the Gulf crisis. The two envoys, who arrived in Amman Saturday, left later for Baghdad for talks with the Iraqi government on the developments in the Gulf. The meeting with Qasem was attended by Brazilian Ambassador to Jordan Felix de Faria.

Gorbachev aide says Germany should be in Security Council

BONN (AP) — Germany should become the sixth permanent member of the United Nations Security Council after its unification, a Soviet official was quoted as saying Saturday. United Germany should return to world politics as a "modern great power," according to Nikolai Portogalov, the German affairs advisor to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Germany's inclusion in the U.N. Security Council will come soon after its unification and will be accepted "almost unanimously," Portogalov predicted in an interview with the Bild am Sonntag newspaper. The two Germanys will unite on Oct. 3.

169 Westerners leave Baghdad for London

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.S.-chartered Iraqi plane carrying 169 mostly American women and children flew out of Baghdad for London Saturday, airport sources said. They said the Iraqi Airways Boeing 707 took off around 6.30 p.m. (1430 GMT). U.S. embassy officials said 145 mainly American women and children who flew in earlier Saturday from Kuwait were joined on the flight by another 24 already in the Iraqi capital.

Bush video tape arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A videotaped message by U.S. President George Bush to the Iraqi people arrived in Baghdad Saturday, U.S. embassy officials in the Iraqi capital said. It was sent by the State Department via a diplomatic courier two days ago. The officials said the tape, to be broadcast on Iraqi television, would be delivered by hand to Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. On Thursday Iraq's ambassador to the United States, Muhammad Al Masbat, refused to receive the tape, citing diplomatic protocol. But he promised it would be broadcast unedited when delivered.

Ben Bella voices solidarity with Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella, who has been living in exile in Switzerland, arrived in Baghdad Saturday to show of solidarity with Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency said. It quoted Ben Bella, who is trying to make a comeback to Algerian politics, as saying he came to Iraq to "express support against imperialism and Zionist threats and the illegitimate presence of invading forces," in the Gulf. "The Algerian people stand united with Iraq in defence of its policy and the Arab Nation," the agency quoted Ben Bella as saying. Ben Bella has already criticised the buildup of American and other foreign forces in the Gulf. A key figure in the Algerian revolution against France, Ben Bella became president after independence but was ousted in a military coup 25 years ago. He is due to return to Algeria later this month and to take part in elections due there next year. INA said that among those who greeted Ben Bella on arrival were Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem.

Pecuniary compensation does not solve Jordan's problems — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has expressed hope that a political solution would be found for the Gulf crisis and said Japan could play a leading role to help Jordan deal with the economic burdens it is shouldering as a result of the crisis. On Jordan's demand from the international community to deal with the question of evacuees, the Crown Prince said Jordan, which has hosted expatriates equal to nearly 15 per cent of the total number of its population, is not quite satisfied with the assistance offered so far to the evacuees, although it did everything in its power to help them. What it needs to see, he said, is a solution to the problem represented in quick repatriation of the evacuees. "It is very clear that our role is unique because it has attempted and continued to attempt to find a peaceful solution for the crisis. In the case of war, clearly we have a very difficult situation. We have the U.S. presence and the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia, Israel to our west and our responsibility to defend our territorial integrity," the Crown Prince said in an interview with Japanese Television Saturday. Asked about the role which Japan can play to ease the difficulties encountered by Jordan as a result of the U.N. embargo on Iraq, the Prince said: "These are U.N. Security Council sanctions and we expect the sanctions committee to play the role of assessing Jordan's economic losses on a dynamic basis. We are not interested solely in compensation because pecuniary compensation does not resolve the organic trade and varied investment ties that bind us to our three major trading partners — Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. "So I would like to make it very clear that the Japanese government can pay more attention to the particular needs of the individual countries. We are very aware of the generosity of the Japanese government in offering assistance to Turkey, Jordan and Egypt, but we do not intend to move our economy to the dole. Pecuniary compensation is not what is required. What is required is a clear understanding of the demographic responsibilities that Jordan shares as a result of its central position and of the political economy which we have had to live vis-a-vis the Palestinian question on the one side (and) vis-a-vis the Gulf war on the other. And if we are to play a moderate pivotal role, this should be understood in-depth."

Gorbachev ready to study Iraq's grievances

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is willing to discuss Iraq's grievances with Kuwait provided Baghdad's troops are withdrawn from there, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said Saturday. De Michelis told a news conference after talks with Gorbachev that the Soviet leader was prepared to launch an initiative to resolve the crisis but this was contingent on an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwait sovereignty. "In this context, he believes that if Iraq agrees to this then it would be possible at a diplomatic level to discuss the issues raised by Iraq prior to the invasion," he said. Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 and subsequently annexed the emirate, saying it was historically a part of its territory, separated during the colonial era. Before the invasion Iraq said two Kuwait islands were part of Iraq territory and the Kuwaiti part of an oilfield straddling the border. It demanded billions of dollars in financial compensation. De Michelis said the Soviet Union backed the invasion and backed U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. But it has continuously called for a peaceful settlement and refused to consider sending military forces to the region. De Michelis said the Soviet Union backed the convening of a joint meeting of European Community and Arab foreign ministers in Venice on Oct. 7 to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Israeli ministers silent after meeting Gorbachev

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The first Israeli ministers to meet a Kremlin leader for more than 20 years said Saturday they discussed Soviet immigration to Israel with President Mikhail Gorbachev but declined to give details. Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he preferred to "keep quiet" about what was said on the sensitive immigration issue during Friday's surprise two-hour meeting in Moscow. Nearly 90,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year. "The topics that were discussed ranged world-wide but in the end we focused on the Middle East," Mordechai told Israeli Radio. Both he and Science and Energy Minister Yuval Neeman described the talks as a breakthrough. They were the first of their kind since the Soviet Union cut ties with Israel after the 1967 war. Italy's foreign minister Saturday said Gorbachev is ready to restore diplomatic relations with Israel if Israel will participate in an international Middle East conference. "President Gorbachev told me about the Soviet side's readiness to recognize immediately Israel if it agrees to participate in an international conference that would determine rules and principles for security and cooperation in the region," Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said. Italy currently holds the presidency of the European Community (EC). The Soviets on Sept. 4 proposed an international conference to discuss the Gulf crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon's civil war. At the time, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union "might take a fresh look at the issue of Soviet-Israeli relations" if the Jewish state agreed to participate.

Top Tehran official to visit Baghdad

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki is to go to Baghdad Sunday to follow up discussions in Tehran last week with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Tehran Radio said Saturday. Mottaki's talks would include arrangements for the reopening of embassies in each other's capitals, further exchanges of prisoners of war (PoWs) and border demarcation, it said.

The newspaper Tehran Times said Mottaki's trip would also prepare for a visit to Baghdad by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Velayati as describing Iraq's acceptance of peace with Iran as a glorious victory. He again indirectly criticised Iraq for invading Kuwait. IRNA quoted him as saying Friday that Iran opposed aggression by any country big or small but that it wanted good relations with its neighbors. He told war invalids, combatants and PoWs just back from Iraq that Baghdad's acceptance of peace with Iran last month was "almost unprecedented in the history of Islam both in terms of magnitude and glory."

Tehran has denounced both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf region. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday that the struggle against U.S. forces counted as a holy war. Velayati urged Muslims to unite against the enemies of Islam and said the Gulf crisis should be resolved by countries in the region. Iraq began releasing prisoners of war last month. It also pulled its troops out of pockets of Iranian territory, freeing them to confront U.S. and other foreign troops in Saudi Arabia, and accepted Tehran's view of where the border runs along the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway. Iran's supreme national security council met under President Rafsanjani to discuss the Gulf crisis and urged Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Despite increasing signs that Iran was allowing Iraq-bound goods to cross into Iraq, puncturing the embargo imposed on its neighbor and one-time adversary, the council said Iran "remains fully committed to U.N. Security Council resolutions."

King meets Islamic leaders; team to visit Iraq, Iran, S. Arabia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of Islamic movements and religious leaders in several Arab and Islamic countries Saturday briefed His Majesty King Hussein on a political offensive they have agreed upon and which will be presented to the leaders of Iraq, Iran and S. Arabia proposing the replacement of Western forces in Saudi Arabia with Arab and Islamic forces, informed sources said Saturday. The sources said the briefing took place at a meeting the King held with a delegation representing Islamic movements in the Arab and Islamic worlds which

concluded a meeting here Thursday. Little was published about the meeting, which was organized by the Muslim Brotherhood and attended by Islamic religious scholars and leaders of Islamic movements from many countries. Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, is expected to issue a statement Sunday on the details of the meeting, the sources said. According to the sources, the delegation stayed back in Amman until Saturday for the meeting with the King, who presented a briefing on his efforts and contacts aimed at finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. The delegation members informed the King that they were planning visits to Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia

with their proposal, which demands that Saudi Arabia replace the national force in its territory with Arab and Islamic troops, the sources said. If the foreign, non-Muslim forces extended their presence in Saudi Arabia, then the various Islamic movements would denounce that presence as a desecration of Islamic holy shrines in the Kingdom and declare a holy war against their forces, the delegation was quoted as telling the King during Saturday's meeting. Among those attending the meeting were Hassan Tourabi, the fiery leader of the Muslim Brotherhood of Sudan, and several other prominent Islamic leaders from the Arab and Islamic worlds, the sources added. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the delegation paid tribute to the King's efforts to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and

urged him to continue his endeavours "so as to avert harm befalling the interests and aspirations of the Arab and Muslim nations." According to Petra, the delegation informed the King that last week's meeting had decided to "launch an offensive aimed at dealing with the Gulf crisis within an Arab and Islamic framework." It was not immediately known what form of a political solution the Islamic movements were envisaging. Last week's Amman meeting coincided with a three-day conference of Muslim leaders held in Mecca under the umbrella of the World Muslim League. The Mecca gathering denounced Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, called for the restoration of the toppled emiri regime and endorsed the Western military presence in Saudi Arabia as "a matter dictated by legitimate necessity."

Arab conference opens with calls for foreign withdrawal from Gulf

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-day Arab conference on the Gulf crisis opened here Saturday with repeated demands for international action to push for implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions, including those that call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. More than 120 delegates from 11 Arab countries are attending the conference, which will seek to come up with an Arab political offensive against foreign intervention in the Gulf. The conference, the first of its kind attended by leaders of political parties and popular organisations in the Arab World since the Gulf crisis erupted more than six weeks ago, opened to the roaring applause of the approximately 4,000 people attending the opening session in a distinctive sign of the popular support for the gathering's efforts. As the conference got under way, speaker after speaker lashed out at

foreign intervention in the Arab World in general and American foreign policy in the region in particular and called for an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of all non-Arab troops from the area. Organisers announced before the first session began that Egyptian and Syrian delegations would not be able to attend because they had been barred from travelling to Jordan by their respective governments, which have taken a clear pro-American stand in the Gulf crisis. In an opening address, delivered on his behalf by Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar, His Majesty King Hussein said an Arab solution would be the only "successful remedy" for the Gulf crisis. The King told the conference, which is organized by the recently founded Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), that outside pressure would only aggravate popular sentiments in the Arab World which deeply resents the selectiveness with which U.N. Security Council resolutions have

been applied in the region. The conference, which is being held through the Palace of Culture's main theatre as Palestinian leaders George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh arrived to address a Jordanian audience for the first time in 20 years. Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second largest faction in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), ridiculed the American administration for its "double standards" and challenged members of the United Nations Security Council to pursue the implementation of all their resolutions with the same zest and speed. "If the U.S. is ready to push for the implementation of 'international legitimacy' in all cases rather than in only the chosen few, then we will adhere to all of them," Habash said. "But if the U.S. and the U.N. continue to be selective about the implementation of U.N. resolutions then we will have no choice but to opt for our 'Arab revolutionary legitimacy', which means the right

to have one Arab country rather than 21 states, and it means that all of Palestine is Arab," Habash said. The Arab World has three weapons with which it can counter aggression, Habash said. "The Iraqi Arab army, which according to international research institutes, is the sixth strongest army in the world, the Iraqi oil reserves and the strongest weapon of all, the Arab masses," he said. Habash, who left Jordan 20 years ago and later to Syria, hailed Jordan as "exemplary in its democratisation and support for Iraq and its people." "It was the Arab masses in Jordan which speak for the progressive and constructive power of the Arab masses," said Habash as he emphasised the need to mobilise the Arab masses in Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula to bring about a united Arab stand. Hawatmeh, who heads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the

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West wants to punish Iraq sanction-busters

ROME (Agencies) — The West built up pressure on Saturday for sanctions against any country helping Iraq to evade the U.N. trade embargo, saying this was the only way to make the blockade effective. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker backed a call by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti for U.N. sanctions to be extended to countries still trading with Iraq. "To enforce the embargo completely, one should think of imposing economic sanctions also against those countries which violate it," Andreotti, whose country is current president of the European Community (EC), told Baker when they met in Rome on Saturday. In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand said there were too

many embargo violations and the U.N. should consider punitive action. An Italian spokesman said Baker welcomed Andreotti's idea. Throughout his talks with Italian officials, Baker appeared anxious to convince the world that Washington was not seeking a fight in the Gulf and did not want to keep U.S. troops in the area after an end to the crisis over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. Baker welcomed another Italian idea on guaranteeing the Gulf's military security once the crisis was over, but said it would be up to countries like Egypt and Syria — and not the United States — to provide the necessary forces. The Italian spokesman said Baker agreed with Andreotti that

once the Kuwait question was settled, something had to be done to make sure no nation in the Gulf was allowed to build up forces to such a "threatening level" as Iraq had done. But Baker stressed the U.S. military presence in the Gulf would not last one day more than necessary and asked Italy to convince doubters that Washington did not nurture any long-term designs on the region, the spokesman said. The Italian spokesman gave no further details on Baker's suggestion that it would be up to Syria and Egypt, military superpowers of the Arab World apart from Iraq, to provide the backbone of any future Gulf security arrangements. Egypt and Syria have both already deployed troops in Saudi

Arabia alongside U.S. forces, and diplomats in Damascus said Syria has agreed to boost its forces in the Gulf by an extra 12,000 men to 15,000. Baker visited Damascus Friday. Baker appeared particularly concerned about convincing Iran that Washington was only in the Gulf on a limited mission and the spokesman said he had asked for Italy's help on this. Baker said in Bonn later Saturday West Germany had made a "significant" offer of financial help for the U.S.-led campaign against Iraq. Baker said West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had given him "substantial" numbers during a luncheon meeting to discuss Bonn's contribution to the U.S. effort in the Gulf.

Economic sanctions against Iraq deeply hurt Jordan's economy

By Alistair Lyon Reuter

AMMAN — The Gulf crisis has begun to devastate Jordan's fragile economy, dashing hopes of recovery and threatening a disaster which only rapid, massive infusions of foreign aid can stave off, officials and economists say. Things looked so bright in July, mourned one official. "The IMF adjustment programme was doing well and we were exceeding all our targets. Now it's all shot to hell." Western diplomats estimate that Jordan, which had close economic links with Iraq and Kuwait, has foreign exchange to cover less than two months of food and other vital imports. "It's a disaster," said one diplomat. Without urgent aid, Jordan could soon face economic and financial collapse which might trigger social and political unrest, he added.

Unlike Baghdad, there are no bread queues in Amman and the dinar has so far held firm against a weak dollar, but local bankers say a crunch could come in two months. "The knife is still in the flesh, it hasn't yet reached the bone," one commented on the impact of the Gulf crisis. Crown Prince Hassan said he tried to alert the world to Jordan's plight. "We are caught in the middle whether it is war or peace," he said Thursday. He told the Canadian television network CBC Jordan stood to lose 50 per cent of its gross national product because of the crisis and two thirds of its gross domestic product (GDP). "Our GDP is barely over \$3 billion and two billion of that would go with the application of total (U.N.) sanctions... squeezing is already taking place," he said. The Prince said Jordan had applied sanctions except for oil

imports from Iraq supplied in payment of Iraqi trade debts. "If that oil stops now, our light industry stops, our drinking water stops, our economic problems aggravate. We already have 20 per cent unemployment and we have obviously a very difficult situation to cope with," he said. Prince Hassan said war risk insurance on shipping was punitive and equivalent to sanctions against Jordan. "With 20 and 30 per cent insurance on ships coming into our port of Aqaba we are already being sanctioned. It's not a question of Iraq being sanctioned. Our economy is in jeopardy." Jordan wants substantial international aid for its economy, on top of emergency support needed to cope with an influx of hundreds of thousands of Arab and Asian refugees from Kuwait. It has told the U.N. Security

Council it needs \$2.384 billion in loans and grants in the first year alone, as well as relief on its \$8.4 billion foreign debt. Japan said Friday it would provide \$2 billion to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, including \$600 million in commodity loans for grains and other foodstuffs as soon as possible. European Community (EC) foreign ministers may approve on Monday proposals to provide \$2 billion to the three "front-line states" hit hardest by the Gulf crisis. West Germany and Italy have approved separate packages of \$260 million and \$150 million for those countries. Officials say Jordan has received no Arab aid since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and do not know if any will come. So far this year Amman has been paid \$260 million, mainly by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait

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Bush plans massive arms sale to Saudis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush is preparing to ask Congress to sell Saudi Arabia \$18 billion worth of weapons, including F-15 fighter planes, tanks and other sophisticated arms, an official said Friday.

Officials at the State and Defense Departments were working in consultation with Saudi officials to determine that country's needs.

"It's not all finalized yet, and it won't be until we submit it to Congress," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The deal was also reported in Saturday editions of the Washington Post and the New York Times, which said it would be the largest single arms sale in U.S. history.

The administration has already proposed selling Saudi Arabia \$3 billion in new weapons to bolster its defenses, including F-15 fighter planes, M-60 tanks, 15,000 rounds of armor-piercing anti-tank ammunition and 200 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, according to congressional sources.

The larger package includes 24 additional F-15s, as many as 48 Apache helicopters, 385 M-1A2 tanks, 400-500 M-2 Bradley armed personnel carriers and thousands of trucks and jeeps, the Times said.

The Post said the package would range from \$18 billion to

\$23 billion and also would include Patriot air defence systems, naval command and control systems and thousands of tonnes of ammunition.

Earlier in the day, an administration official noted that additional sales had been promised to Saudi Arabia when the latest package was recently announced. However, the official said, "no recommendations have come to the White House."

Once the larger package is submitted to Congress, lawmakers will have two months during which they can debate it and decide whether to approve the sale.

The White House had approved the sale in principle and passed the plans along to technicians to work on the details, the official said.

The administration is trying to speed up submitting the package in order to take advantage of the bipartisan support for President Bush's policy on Saudi Arabia and his decision to send more than 100,000 troops to the kingdom, said another official familiar with the deal.

The offer would constitute the largest peacetime package of arms ever sold by the United States to a single country and would be sure to stir opposition from the pro-Israeli lobby in Congress.

But officials said arms also would be offered to Israel in the

near future to "cushion the shock" of the Saudi sale.

The Israeli government has complained loudly about the mounting arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which Israel says is still technically at war with Israel. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is scheduled to have a working lunch at the Pentagon on Monday with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Israel is known to want Patriots and perhaps F-16 fighters built by General Dynamics. The Israeli government is also pushing for an increase in foreign military aid from Washington despite pressure in Congress to freeze or cut the level.

Administration officials said the largest peacetime sale of U.S. weapons previously was in 1981 when the Saudis agreed to purchase \$8 billion in air defence equipment, including airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft and F-15 fighters.

Israel had 58 of the F-15s prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Bush last month bypassed Congress and agreed to sell the Saudis 24 more F-15s from air force stocks.

The 24 jets in the upcoming package are in addition to those Congress last year approved the sale of 12 F-15s to the Saudis and all of the deals together would give Saudi Arabia 118 of the high-performance fighters.

Iraqi ridicules Iranian cleric's sermon as naive

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior Iranian cleric's statements on the Gulf crisis were ridiculed and naive and served the United States and Israel, an "authoritative source" at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday that the source was commenting on a sermon by Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili at a mass prayer meeting at Tehran University Friday.

INA quoted the source as saying that Ardebili, "tried to be intelligent in his speech but came out merely with desperate ideas reflecting his shortsightedness and lack of awareness."

"He distorted facts by claiming that Iraq had notified the U.S. of its intention to send troops to Kuwait as this is completely unfounded."

He said the Iranian cleric "used this flagrant distortion as a basis for a naive and ridiculous assessment reflecting his standing and way of thinking."

Ardebili had denounced the American-led military buildup in the Gulf, saying Muslims would soon rise up against American soldiers who drink and "party with semi-nude dancers," near Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

The cleric described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's appeal to Muslim sentiments as not genuine "after what he did in Iraq, Kuwait and Iran," Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and Kuwaitis decide their future in a free election, he said.

"It is well known that Ardebili is not the one who lays down Iran's policy and should not be counted upon... but his sermon is inspired by those interested in influencing the process of peace between Iraq and Iran to serve American designs," the source said.

The source said the cleric "reiterated in his distortion, American claims about an Iraqi intention to invade Saudi Arabia, in addition to the question of Iraqi troops entering Kuwait."

"Ardebili's sermon wholly lies in the service of America and Zionism both of which harbour overt aggression against Iraq and the Arab Nation," he added.

"Iranian officials, whose views Ardebili does not express, should not permit this kind of voices in the service of American designs," the source said.

Egypt restricts entry of certain Arab nationals

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt is intensifying its campaign against Iraq by restricting entry of Iraqis and citizens of Arab countries that support Iraq.

A senior security officer said Saturday the curbs apply to Jordanians, Yemenis and Palestinians. Kuwaitis also are subject to the controls but for different reasons, he said.

In a related move, President Hosni Mubarak's government prevented two leading Egyptian opposition politicians and two reporters with known leftist leanings from travelling to Amman for a conference starting Saturday.

Political groups from Arab, Asian and other countries are attending the Amman conference. They are trying to devise a peaceful resolution of the crisis, which then will be taken to Baghdad.

The Egyptian politicians prevented from attending are Ibrahim Shukry, chairman of the left-of-centre Socialist Labour Party, and his parliamentary ally, Mohammad Hamed Abdul Nasr, leader of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

Two journalists of the leftist, pro-Moscow National Unionist Progressive Party also said they were not allowed to go.

The Egyptian security officer, who holds a senior post in the government's passports and immigration department, described the new entry restrictions as security measures stemming from political differences.

He said the regulations took effect in the past week. They require all Iraqis, Yemenis, Jordanians and Kuwaitis who want to visit Egypt to obtain entry visas in advance, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Previously, citizens of the four countries could get visas for automatic six-month residence on arrival in Egypt, like nationals of other Arab countries.

Under the new regulations, the length of stay in Egypt will be set by entry visas, depending on an applicant's business in the country.

The officer said Palestinians with Egyptian or other travel documents now must also get entry visas in advance. Previously those having Egyptian travel documents were not required to do so.

In all cases, visiting Palestinians are given one-month residence, as in the past, he said.

Egypt, all other Arab countries and some other governments recognise the State of Palestine, but without universal recognition, the Palestine government does not issue passports. Palestinians use travel documents issued by any of the 20 Arab states unless they hold a separate Arab or other nationality. Many Palestinians have Jordanian passports.

The security officer said the aim of the new controls regarding Kuwaitis is to prevent Iraq from sending agents into Egypt with Kuwaiti passports.

"All government departments in Kuwait fell into Iraqi hands after the invasion," he said. "We are afraid that Iraq might try to send Iraqi or non-Kuwaitis into Egypt with what might appear to be genuine Kuwaiti passports."

This, he added, is why Egyptian authorities want to "screen properly in advance any Kuwaiti passport-holders wanting to come to Egypt."

Cairo continues to recognise the ousted ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads an exile government in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Cheney: U.S. Gulf build-up nearing peak

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has said the United States may be approaching the peak of its six-week buildup of military forces in the Gulf.

U.S. military commanders have not yet told the administration they have enough personnel and equipment in the Gulf region to respond to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Cheney said Friday.

"I expect it's not too far off, but we would still like to get some heavy units on the ground over there, and those are just now arriving," he said referring to army units equipped with heavy tanks.

Cheney, speaking at a news conference during a three-day speaking tour of California military bases, said that once the administration decides enough American forces have been deployed the United States will switch to "sustainment mode."

Cheney refused to speculate on what kind of act by Iraq might spark an additional military response from the United States and its allies.

"Should there be a provocation, we are equipped to respond and will respond very aggressively. Saddam Hussein should not assume there's any sanctuary for him inside Iraq," he said.

Cheney said the United States had dispatched more than 100,000 troops to the region, and he estimated it would cost \$15 billion to keep them there during the fiscal year ending on Oct. 1, 1991.

He said the United States expected about one-half of the expenses to be met by contributions from other governments.

The full buildup of U.S. forces needed to combat the Iraqi threat to Saudi Arabia will not be completed for two more months, according to the top American military commander in Riyadh.

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf of the army, chief of the U.S. Central Command, said in an interview that the buildup had been slowed about a week by breakdowns of ships carrying heavy combat equipment.

Moreover, he said, the air force will be required to reduce its airlift of troops and equipment to the region in coming weeks because the operation has taxed aging transports so severely that many of their engines must be replaced.

Schwarzkopf said that in the last week, air transport flights into the Middle East had decreased from an average of 80 a day to about 70 a day. He said that number would drop further in about two weeks, when the air force is to begin massive overhauls and maintenance of its transport planes. These have been down hard in the last four weeks. The general also said the flights would begin tapering off as more equipment continued to arrive by sea.

Saudi radar said to detect Stealth fighters

PARIS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia radar has detected the U.S. Stealth fighter several times since the highly sophisticated jet was deployed in the Gulf, raising questions about its effectiveness, a French magazine said.

The Friday edition of L'Express said Stealth fighters had been detected by a French-made Crotale air-defense system bought by Saudi Arabia and renamed the Shabine system. The aircraft, officially known as the F-117A, were designed to evade enemy radar.

Thomson-CSF, the French electronics company that builds the ground-to-air defense system, declined to comment on the report.

L'Express said the fighters had been detected at a distance of 17 kilometres (11 miles) and that the defense system had been able to distinguish a distinct Stealth radar signature.

Israel seeks new links with U.S. spy satellites

WASHINGTON (R) — Washington has turned down an Israeli request for "real-time" links with U.S. spy satellites which would have helped Israel to target Iraqi military sites, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

It said Israeli Deputy Defence Minister David Ivry last month requested "strategic coordination" with U.S. forces if hostilities broke out in the Middle East.

The U.S. reply, formulated at a high-level State Department meeting Friday, was that the United States would not provide a "real-time" satellite link for Israeli military commanders, but would share intelligence with Israel as it does with other allies," the Post said.

The State Department had no immediate comment on the report.

The Post, quoting administration officials, said Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens planned to push the request for satellite links when he meets his U.S. counterpart, Dick Cheney, Monday at the Pentagon.

Arens was also expected to mount a new drive to have Israel's military debt to Washington cancelled.

On Friday, President George Bush formally sent Congress a request to cancel Egypt's \$7.1 billion military debt, largely as a reward for its key role in organising Arab opposition to Iraq.

Israel has said it expects the same treatment for its military debt under the terms of the U.S.-brokered 1970 Camp David treaties signed by Israel and Egypt.

Arens is also expected to seek new military aid to counter spiralling U.S. weapons sales to Arab countries and the perceived threat from Iraq.

The Bush administration plans to sell Saudi Arabia up to \$20 billion in U.S. fighter jets, tanks, missiles and other arms to counter any military threat from Iraq, administration officials said Friday.

The Israeli government has complained loudly about the mounting arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which is technically at war with Israel.

Hamas accuses PLO supporters of attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists have accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of attacking them.

But the Muslim Hamas group said it was still ready to cooperate with PLO leaders in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement, dated Sept. 15, singled out activists in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement, the main group in the nationalist unified leadership of the uprising, of spearheading clashes with its members in West Bank towns.

"The unified leadership, headed by Fateh, claims Hamas instigating divisions, but we ask them: Who confronts Hamas masked men, preventing them from carrying out their sacred duty of struggle in Nablus, Hebron, Tulkarm, Jabalya..." said the statement naming major West Bank towns and a Gaza Strip refugee camp.

Palestinians said supporters of Hamas and backers of PLO factions were wounded when they fought with stones and knives in the West Bank districts of Tulkarm and Jenin last week.

They said the clashes broke out over what political line Muslim preachers should advocate in their Friday sermons.

Fateh supporters say Hamas, a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, is trying to win back Saudi Arabian support, eroded by Hamas opposition to U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

Israeli soldiers Wednesday broke up an attempted reconciliation between the rivals at Tulkarm town hall and arrested at least 20 people. But leading nationalist and fundamentalist figures at the meeting were not

detained. Palestinians said Hamas activists stabbed and wounded an ex-prisoner in Nablus Friday, claiming he had abused fellow militants when they were held in an Israeli jail.

The statement, however, insisted that Hamas was still committed to working with nationalist Palestinian groups to maintain the revolt.

"We assert that our hands are still stretched to cooperate with our brothers in all factions to keep the momentum and strength of our uprising. We are ready for any constructive dialogue and ready to cast away all causes of divisions and disputes," it said.

Houses blown up

The Israeli army said Friday, troops blew up three houses of Palestinians Thursday night in the West Bank village of Beit Auwa near Hebron.

The houses belonged to men suspected of throwing firebombs at a military ambulance and at suspected informers in the village. No one was hurt in the attacks, the army said.

The United States and other Western nations have condemned house demolitions and sealings as a violation of international human rights conventions. In most cases, the measure is used against Palestinians who have not been tried.

Israeli police Friday arrested four Palestinian suspects in the killing of an alleged Arab informer.

Police said one suspect was shot and wounded when he tried to escape during the arrest raid in the Silwan neighbourhood in Arab Jerusalem.

Indian food ship to Gulf delayed by a day

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian cargo ship carrying food for Indians stranded in Kuwait will sail Sunday, a day later than planned, to enable dockers to load more supplies, officials said Saturday.

"We want to send as much food as possible and hence the delay in the ship's departure," a government spokesman told Reuters. "It should leave by Sunday morning."

The 12,972 tonne Vishwa Siddhi was to have sailed from the southern port city of Cochin for Kuwait Saturday with 6,000 tonnes of food.

It will be the first shipment allowed through the naval blockade enforcing stringent United Nations sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

"We have been told to load

more food. We are loading a little more than 10,000 tonnes and this could take a day more," a port official said.

He said the supplies would now comprise 10,000 tonnes of rice, 172 tonnes of pulses, 100 tonnes of sugar and 50 tonnes of wheat flour.

Nearly 200 port workers were loading the food, supplied by the government of the southern state of Kerala.

Most of the 125,000 Indians still stranded in Kuwait are from Kerala. Nearly 40,000 Indians have come home so far.

India won United Nations permission to send the ship in the face of strong opposition from the United States and Britain, both permanent members of the

Security Council.

The council imposed sanctions on Iraq for its invasion, allowing food to be sent only for humanitarian purposes.

Washington had said humanitarian supplies were not yet necessary, but apparently changed its mind under strong pressure from India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, all of which have large numbers of people trapped.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday the Vishwa Siddhi would sail to Umm Qasr, near the southern Iraqi port of Basra, and the food would be distributed to any hungry foreigner, not just Indians.

Senior Indian officials described the voyage of the Vishwa Siddhi as a test case for all concerned.

The Security Council insisted the Indian food be distributed under the eyes of humanitarian organisations.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said an Indian Red Cross team would accompany the food and a method of distribution consistent with Security Council rules would be worked out in Baghdad during the five or six-day voyage.

One senior official told Reuters that if the Vishwa Siddhi operation went well, India might ask the Security Council for permission to send additional, smaller, shipments of 4,000-5,000 tonnes.

He said water might well be the major item in any future shipment because people in Kuwait, many of them poor Asians short of cash and food, were suffering from a water shortage.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Cartoons
18:15 Documentaries
19:00 News in French
19:15 Musical programme
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Variety programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Tins Air

PRAYER TIMES

06:57 Fair
06:15 Sunrise
12:31 Dhuhr
16:01 'Asr
18:46 Maghreb
20:04 'Isha

CHURCHES

Tel. 73111-19

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh.

Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assiuta Church Tel. 625389, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 733561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Assiuta International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds

will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/max. temp.
Amman 15-29
Aqaba 20-36
Deserts 15-32
Jordan Valley 20-38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalidun Kloub 626919
Dr. David Al-Samir 689531
Dr. Khalil Abdul Gader 799792
Dr. Ahmad Al-Natour 659394
Firas pharmacy 622520
Ferdous pharmacy 778238
Al Asana pharmacy 637065
Nasrallah pharmacy 629676
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644345
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
DIBDI:
Dr. Radwan Al-Sa'ad 682365
Al Shama pharmacy 985236

ZARQA:
Dr. Husam Hiyas 636381
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Institute
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 617221, 637777
Blood Bank 751211
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 696309
Public Security Department 630721
Hotel Complaints 605900
Prize Complaints 661178
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661171
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marfa 8916115
Qasbi, Abdali 6624030
Qasbi Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Saud Hospital (09)986732
IBDI:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)278555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272755
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381372
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 641714
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661171
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marfa 8916115
Qasbi, Abdali 6624030
Qasbi Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Saud Hospital (09)986732
IBDI:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)278555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272755
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
12:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
13:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)
17:45 Paris, Rome (RJ)
17:45 Madrid (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:45 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:50 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 Rome (AZ)
09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:40 Jeddah (SV)
12:20 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Tripoli (LH)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:35 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 London (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
17:15 Aqaba (RJ)
18:30 Shamsan (RJ)
18:30 Damascus (RJ)
19:35 Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:35 Rome (AZ)
09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:40 Jeddah (SV)
12:20 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Tripoli (LH)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:35 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 600 / 450
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 270
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 200 / 180
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Corn 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 200
Dates 150 / 100
Eggplant 350 / 300
Figs 400 / 280
Garlic 750 / 650
Grapes 300 / 250
Lemon 250 / 180
Mallow 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 24

IOJ meeting to take place as scheduled in Amman

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite concern by some members of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) over the tense situation in the region, the IOJ meeting will take place as scheduled on Oct. 14-16 in Amman to discuss major changes in the organisation's orientation.

"This (the reservations by some members) is a bit problematic," the president of the IOJ, Kaarle Nordenstreng, told a press conference Saturday. "We hope to explain to them and prove to them that we can convene such a (professional) meeting here despite the crisis," he added. The executive committee of the organisation is in Amman to prepare for the meeting.

According to Jordanian journalists, the IOJ was contemplating reversing its decision, which was taken before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, to convene the meeting in Amman. But the president of the Prague-based organisation, which comprises 102 organisations representing 260,000 journalists, said that the meeting would be held in the Jordanian capital and "would not be changed unless the situation (in the area) became explosive."

The October meeting, which was described as a "turning point" for the organisation, aims at "renovating" the organisation and map out a new orientation and strategy for the 44-year-old institution.

"In a way we are really coming back to our constitution adopted in 1946-47," Nordenstreng said explaining the changes the meeting will try to implement. "We want to get

rid of double standards... we used to condemn repression of journalists in some countries and keep silent in others. We used to criticise media distortions in one and not in another," he said.

He said the organisation wants to pay more attention to trade unions and the working conditions of journalists. "Our meeting has nothing to do with the Gulf crisis... our meeting itself has an internal agenda," Nordenstreng explained. "However, there is one point which has wider scope, the question of the right of information." On this issue, the organisation will discuss reports on the condition of journalists in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Kheisat in his opening statement discussed a political aspect of the agenda. He told the press conference that "we in this part of the world have the need for journalists to see the realities and problems prevailing in the region... the Palestinian question and the Gulf crisis."

The JPA will be the host for the meeting and Kheisat assured the IOJ Executive Committee members that all facilities will be provided to ensure the success of the conclave.

In answer to a question about a possible conflict over the agenda between the JPA and the organisation, Nordenstreng said: "There really is no conflict. There is maybe a difference of emphasis. Let us remember the fact that we convened this meeting to renovate... therefore we would not like to mix this meeting with

King receives patriarch

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Holy Land Archbishop Torkom Manougian and presented him with a Royal decree officially recognising him as Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The audience took place in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Ammanian clergy in Jordan.

The patriarch was received separately Saturday by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleem Massadeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

The patriarch, who arrived in Jordan from the West Bank Friday, voiced his deep appreciation for the hospitality and the warm reception accorded to him upon arrival.

During his week-long stay in Amman, the Iraqi-born patriarch will hold meetings with Jordanian officials and will tour Ammanian community centres here.

Upon his arrival across the King Hussein Bridge from the occupied territories the patriarch called for solidarity and rallying ranks behind the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

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Jordan, India to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India have signed minutes of deliberations by teams from the two sides designed to promote the exchange of national goods and to boost trade.

According to an official statement, arrangements will be made to facilitate the process of exporting Indian products to Jordan while Indian businessmen will be encouraged to take part in joint Jordanian-Indian ventures to be implemented in the Kingdom.

The two sides agreed to convene their joint economic committee in December to discuss further steps to promote trade and economic cooperation," the statement said.

According to the statement, India last year imported JD 90 million worth of Jordanian products and exported JD 11 million

worth of Indian goods; 1990 is expected to witness an increase in Jordanian exports to Indian markets.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran signed the minutes with India's Deputy Minister of Trade V.D.N. Rao following several days of talks between the two sides.

Rao had expressed hope of increased trading links between Jordan and India to help adjust the balance of trade between the two sides which is now heavily in favour of Jordan.

In a bid to promote trade, Rao last year opened a trade and industrial exhibition in Amman, displaying products by 50 Indian manufacturers and trading houses.

Third shipment for Iraqi children leaves Sept. 24

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third convoy of trucks carrying food and medical supplies to children in Iraq will leave Amman on Sept. 24, according to an announcement by an ad hoc committee set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which organises the shipments.

The announcement said that the third convoy of supplies will be contributed by the leadership of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories together with unions of Jordanian merchants and private individuals.

The second convoy of 20 trucks each having a 40-tonne capacity, carried milk and foodstuffs to Baghdad on Sept. 8, and, according to GUVS president, the shipment contained 320 tonnes of

commodities.

The committee held a meeting here Saturday and reviewed the process of collecting contributions for the Iraqi children and appealed to donors to send in their contributions through the committee.

The statement said that the committee had discussed offers of contributions that came from charitable organisations in Geneva, Cyprus and the U.S., and GUVS contacts with different nations to ensure that food shipments would not be intercepted as they are "destined for innocent children."

The convoy, which left on Sept. 8 contained mainly donations from international organisations such as the World Council of Churches.

Jordanian, Iraqi Red Crescent to establish 'group for peace'

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and Iraqi Red Crescent societies decided Saturday to establish an international humanitarian group for peace to be based in Amman.

In a meeting chaired by Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, chairman of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Permanent Committee and president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) from the Jordanian side and by President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Ibrahim Al Nouri from the Iraqi side, the two societies decided to invite international organisations interested in achieving peace to join the group.

"The basic task of the group will be to work for achieving peace in the Middle East and prevent destructive wars," Abu Qoura said. He said he would make contacts with world organisations interested in achieving

international peace and urge them to join the group.

According to Abu Qoura, the group aims at mobilising international public opinion through utilising the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to work for peace in the region and to reduce the suffering of any human being, whether because of the economic sanctions or the situation prevailing as a result of the Gulf crisis.

In another development President of the Algerian Red Crescent Society and Vice-President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Mouloud Bel'awan left Amman Saturday after taking part in the extraordinary meetings of the Executive Committee of the Arab Red Crescent Societies which concluded in Amman Friday.

Bel'awan lauded efforts exerted by JNRCS to offer relief to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Deputies demand extended ordinary session, concrete solutions to problems

Parliament recesses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary session ended Saturday and Parliament will remain in recess until Oct. 1 when its ordinary session will be opened with a speech from the throne to be delivered by His Majesty King Hussein.

Despite the end of the extraordinary session which was announced through a Royal decree on Wednesday, a parliamentary emergency committee, set up to deal with issues related to the Gulf crisis, will continue to hold regular meetings and consultations and follow up the ongoing events in the Gulf region to report to Parliament later on, according to Salim Zoubi, the committee's rapporteur.

Parliament, which went into recess after the ordinary session on March 27, reconvened by a Royal decree in an extraordinary session on June 2, in accordance with articles one and two of the constitution.

During the extraordinary session the Parliament endorsed a

number of draft laws, cancelled the National Medical Institution (NMI), endorsed a law which exempts Jordanian expatriates and their sons from compulsory military service in return for a payment of an amount which was later decided by the Cabinet at \$6,000 per person.

Topics discussed during the extraordinary session, which lasted nearly 100 days, included Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine, the unemployment problem in Jordan, a law on encouraging investment in Jordan as well as developments in the Gulf.

According to deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat from the Islamic Brotherhood Bloc, the extraordinary session was short and in sufficient for discussing all topics as defined by the Royal decree. "Issues like financial and administrative corruption, unemployment, soaring prices, and Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine require special sessions in view of the complications involved," said Arabiyat in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Arabiyyat said, however, that the extraordinary session was successful in many areas, especially in the wake of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait which triggered the current crisis, and Parliament's contacts with Iran, Algeria, Turkey, Sudan, Yemen and Islamic nations to defuse the crisis.

In the view of Fakhri Kaware, another Parliament deputy, the extraordinary session did very little despite the long debates and the lengthy speeches.

The real, concrete outcome of the extraordinary session, Kaware said, was Parliament's success to rally the Jordanian people's support for Iraq. "Despite the heated debates on unemployment nothing of value has been achieved and nothing was done about demands to put an end to arbitrary and mass dismissal of employees from the private sector's companies," Kaware added.

He demanded that Parliament's ordinary session be extended for nine consecutive months every year so that enough time could be found to discuss outstanding issues.

UNHCR grapples with asylum seeking evacuees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with internal strife at home, hundreds of Sri Lankan Tamils and Somalis leaving Kuwait have approached the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Amman seeking refuge in third countries but their fate remains uncertain, according to senior UNHCR officials.

"First of all we have to establish that each has genuine grounds for seeking political asylum," said Bario Carminatti, deputy regional representative of UNHCR in Amman. "In many cases the reasons are financial, but we are studying each case individually and seek solutions," he told the Jordan Times.

While the argument behind the Tamils' approach cannot be considered as "political asylum," the commission recognises that they have a "security" problem in their country, where a fierce separatist rebellion has been raging for five years, Carminatti pointed out.

Sri Lankan Tamils claim that they face a "massacre" if they return home and argue that in addition to the security forces they also face threats from armed Sinhalese groups.

"We are trying to find a solution to their problem (of refuge) through consultations with the various diplomatic missions in Amman," Carminatti told the Jordan Times.

About 300 of the applicants are Sri Lankans and another 200 are Somalis, he said. In addition, 13 Liberian students who were on scholarships in Kuwait had approached the commission, which is now trying to find another country to accommodate them until the situation is clear in Liberia, where fighting is continuing in the capital, Carminatti said.

"In general we follow a case-by-case approach," Carminatti said. "In each case, we seek to establish what each applicant was doing in Kuwait, whether he or she was there because of

political reasons, and whether some countries could be found to take them."

In the case of Sri Lankan Tamils, one way out is India, according to diplomatic sources. "Many Sri Lankan Tamils have relatives in India and this could help them to go to India," said a diplomatic source. But the Indian ambassador to Jordan, Gajendra Singh, said the embassy had not come across any case of direct approach from any Sri Lankan national seeking refuge in India.

The ambassador confirmed that a few Sri Lankan nationals had been airlifted to India by the embassy under its evacuation programme for its own nationals, but all of them were married to Indian nationals.

A Sri Lankan Tamil who gave his name only as Rajendran said he was from a town near Jaffna in Sri Lanka and that he feared for his life if he returned there. "Mine is not an isolated case," he told the Jordan Times. "My only hope is India, although I do not have any relatives there."

Another place of refuge for Sri Lankans is Pakistan, but it could not be immediately established whether any of them had approached the Pakistani embassy here for help.

Carminatti said the honorary Sri Lankan Consulate in Amman was "very cooperative" in discussing problems with the UNHCR. "In many cases, according to Sri Lankan officials, Tamils need the consulate's help to secure passport endorsements which involve the inclusion of countries where they are permitted to travel to."

According to Carminatti, the UNHCR has already conducted personal interviews with about 150 Sri Lankan applicants and 60 Somalis. "In most cases, they were in Kuwait for employment and there is little ground to establish political persecution as the reason behind their presence there," he said. "But at the

same time, we do realise that there is a security problem in Sri Lanka."

Most of the Somali applicants are from the north of the African country where dissidents opposed to the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre have been waging a violent campaign for years. Again, said Carminatti, grounds for political asylum could not be clearly established but security problems could be discerned.

In any event, the U.N. official said, "our first priority now is humanitarian concerns: to settle the refugees somewhere while we seek solutions."

"We do encourage people to contact their relatives in Europe and elsewhere with the objectives of finding them means to reach them," he said. He conceded that it was a time-consuming process, and that the UNHCR was extending "nominal help" to the applicants to sustain themselves in Amman until their problems were sorted out.

But, he added, "we will make sure that no one is repatriated against his or her will."

As things stand today, Jordan plays the role of a host in line with its broader status as the one country which has borne the brunt of the exodus of foreigners from Kuwait and Iraq. "At this point in time it is a humanitarian problem, but after a few weeks (when the Kuwait exodus could decline) there could be other problems," said a Western diplomat familiar with the refugee situation. "What if the hundreds of asylum seekers could not find any country to take them?" he asked. "Obviously they will resist being flown to their countries and in the absence of other alternatives they will be stuck in Jordan."

But that is a possibility discounted by Carminatti. "We are continuing our efforts and we are sure that solutions could be found."

Belgium, the Netherlands, U.S. offer assistance to evacuees

400,000 cross into Jordan at Ruweished

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 400,000 expatriates of different nationalities crossed into Jordan through the Ruweished border post since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, according to an official statistical bulletin issued here Saturday. The bulletin said that the total number of evacuees who arrived in the Kingdom on Friday was 14,907 including 2,265 Jordanians, 8,690 non-Jordanian Arabs and the rest foreigners.

The bulletin said that number of evacuees in the camps around Ruweished had been decreasing and that the total number of those still at Shaalan II camp Friday stood at 3,511, mostly Indians, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Pakistanis and Bengalis. Al Rahmeed camp has only 2,865 evacuees, all of them Bengalis. Efforts are being made to transfer the residents of Al Rahmeed and Shaalan II camp to Al Azraq camp, according to the statement.

Over the past two days 19,182 evacuees left by air to different destinations, according to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Saturday.

It said that Jordanian airports were, still handling unscheduled flights to ensure the repatriation of the Arab and foreign nationals.

Meanwhile, more than 1,700 Sri Lankan expatriates who fled the Gulf zone to Jordan were to board a ship bound for Colombo at Aqaba Saturday evening, according to an announcement by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which organised their transportation.

The announcement said that 1,767 Sri Lankans were expected to board the Pakistani Safina - I - Arab, in the company of a doctor from IOM, for the 10-day trip home.

Head of the IOM mission here Anthony Vassiliadis said the Sri Lankans assembled in Amman in the morning and then travelled by buses to the port city.

"It is a long journey, but a ship takes many more people than an aircraft, and we have to consider every possible means to repatriate these people as fast as possible," Vassiliadis said.

He said that the cost of repatriating this batch of Sri Lankans by ship was \$700,000 compared to \$1.115 million by plane.

Meanwhile, the Dutch government has announced a \$1 million aid for the evacuees to be channelled through international and regional organisations involved in the relief operations in Jordan. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Planning here

which was informed by the Dutch government to this effect. It said that the assistance will take the form of means of transport, medicines and food supplies.

AMERICARES, a private American non-profit organisation, has announced that a second plane load of relief aid was due here Friday evening. The consignment, it said, includes 35 tonnes of medicines, blankets, rice, milk, water and other foodstuffs for distribution to refugees arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq. The first plane load of relief supplies arrived here last week, and the third plane was expected Sunday.

In a bid to speed up the evacuation process Belgium has offered to provide more planes to airlift Egyptians who have fled Iraq and Kuwait to Jordan, Egyptian Defence Ministry sources said in Cairo.

The offer was made during talks between Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens, who arrived in Cairo earlier in the day, and Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb.

Belgium has four aircraft currently operating as part of an international airbridge bringing home from Jordan thousands of Egyptian evacuees.

King congratulates Mexico

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Cortari congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on his country's independence day. King Hussein wished the Mexican president and people further progress and prosperity.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Art exhibition by Mohammed Nassrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Part two of Shakespeare's play "Othello" will be shown on video at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Quiet Man" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

7 cultural departments established

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Saturday approved the establishment of seven cultural departments in the capital of the Kingdom's governorates, excluding Amman to "enable the Ministry of Culture to develop culture in all parts of the Kingdom." The cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran also approved a draft law that aims at applying Sharia (Islamic) law on the fixed assets of orphans.

British relief supply arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A new shipment of relief supplies donated by British charitable societies through the British Christian Relief Fund arrived Saturday at Queen Alia International Airport. A statement by the Middle East Council of Churches said the shipment included 274 tents and 2,000 blankets.

Land in Sahab for sale or lease for industrial projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Saturday offered for lease or sale several plots of land within the Sahab Industrial City (SIC), complete with the required infrastructure of basic services and suitable for establishing industrial projects and factories.

The announcement said that despite the ongoing Gulf crisis there has been an increased demand of factory buildings in Sahab Industrial City from Jordanian investors, "but all 500 factory buildings and other premises there are fully occupied."

Earlier this month the JIEC awarded a tender to a local construction firm to build 18 factory buildings at the Sahab Industrial City to meet the immediate needs. The project to be completed in February 1991, consists of 10 factory buildings of 328 square metres in area each, and eight buildings of 813 square

metres in area each. JIEC has received numerous requests for the establishment of industries within the SIC and the plots of land available there could be leased to investors, said the announcement.

Last June Prime Minister Mudar Badran inaugurated five new factories at the SIC, raising to 26 the total number of industrial projects opened in the same area during 1990, with an overall capital of JD 9 million.

The new projects, producing leather, food, electrical and other commodities, created 800 new jobs said the announcement.

The total investments in the 191 existing projects total JD 104 million, the announcement added. It said that given the volume of investments and the number of industries, SIC is considered one of the major industrial complexes in the Middle East.

Children write letters to world leaders

AMMAN (AP) — In the inimitable style of innocence, Jordanian schoolchildren have written letters asking world leaders to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"Please secretary-general, stop the war because I don't want to die, me and my family and my dogs and cats," read one letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. "If there is a war, I will be scared."

The letter from third-grader Ammar Qweider was one of dozens on display at a downtown hotel that serves as a base for foreign journalists. They were organised by a woman's group called Children's Letters for Peace Committee, which asked children in Amman and a major suburb to write them prior to Perez de Cuellar's peace mission here at the beginning of the month.

The letters were accompanied by collages and drawings depicting scenes such as bombings and, in stark contrast, fanciful pastoral settings. Many pictured children killed by war.

One drawing showed two globes. One, labelled "War" in red print, had horns, an angry snarl and a knife in its side with drops of blood coming from it. The other, with "Peace" in green, depicted a smiling, bright-eyed world.

"Please world leaders, I ask you to sort this out before someone makes a rash decision and pushes the little button that can ruin the world," read another letter by Dina Tinam.

Not surprisingly, many of the letters struck a sympathetic chord with Iraq and the Arab Nation. "I'm sorry to inform you that the decision you took against Iraq was a bit unfair," said Rami

Bisher. "There was no need for any military action. The blockade itself was enough, 'cause I'm sure there are some kids in Iraq suffering from the shortage of milk and other goods."

Angie Hussaini wrote: "Please tell Mr. George Bush that the Arabs are not that bad. We are a civilized nation. Once upon a time we were the best, and I can assure you we will be the best again sometime in the future."

"Please take not fight," wrote fourth-grader Aboud Nasser. "If there will be a war I will never get the chance to grow up and become an architect. Just give me and my friends a chance to make the world a better place."

Another letter, dated Aug. 28 and signed "An Angree Boy from the Arab Lands," said, "I'm looking forward to learning on T.V. that you decided to stop the Gulf crisis."

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Bellicose statements and Helsinki spirit

RECENT statements by U.S. officials, from the president down, run counter to the spirit and the declared results of the Helsinki summit. Not only the tone of President Bush's words to the U.S. Congress was unduly aggressive and contradictory of the message of a peaceful settlement of the Kuwaiti situation that has come out of Helsinki. His address also contained elements that suggest Washington is in the Gulf to stay for a long time. It will be recalled that the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, had assured the world that Bush gave him his solemn word that the deployment of U.S. troops there was temporary and purely defensive.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney joined the U.S. chorus to negate the message of the Bush-Gorbachev summit by assuring his countrymen that the deployment of U.S. troops in the Gulf is far from over in view of the fact, as he put it, the objectives of the U.S. military intervention is not only to contain the conflict but also to eliminate it at the source! Such bellicose statements from Washington so soon after the conclusion of the Helsinki meeting suggest that Washington has not changed its colour and is bent on staying the collision course that it has taken since Aug. 2.

In more ways than one, the Washington-London behaviour towards the Gulf crisis is becoming to look more like a rerun of the Washington-London crusade against Iranian leader Mohammad Mosadeq back in the early fifties, and like the French-British-Israeli conspiracy against Egypt in 1956. In the first epoch, Mosadeq's only crime in the eyes of the West was the nationalisation of the Anglo-Iranian oil company for the purpose of stopping the pillaging of Iran's natural resources. In the second, it was purely the rise of Egypt from the ashes of colonialism that infuriated the troika into attacking at Suez. Then, as now, Washington and London vowed not to let the Iranian leader get away with what he wanted for his country because they desired to continue to receive cheap oil at the expense of its rightful owners, the Iranian people. Moscow was unable then to frustrate the infamous conspiracy against Mosadeq and, in the end, the secret agents of the two countries succeeded in fabricating and manipulating events in Iran till they toppled him. Arab eyes were therefore once again focused on Gorbachev to see how he would deal with the old-new Western conspiracy against oil of the Middle East. But, unfortunately, Gorbachev was too distant to see and hear what was actually happening. This of course does not absolve Moscow of its responsibility to hold Washington accountable for any action that runs counter to the spirit and letter of Helsinki summit. The glimmer of hope that was generated by the Bush-Gorbachev meeting last week needs not only to be maintained but also strengthened. The Soviet Union is thus called upon to monitor the situation closely and to ensure that the Americans do not get away with their gun-bo policies. The Soviet leaders are too busy and preoccupied with their own troubles at home, it is true. But the future promises to be even bleaker if they are going to shrink from carrying out their duty for world peace.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

American Army Chief Colin Powell was asked by the American troops in Saudi Arabia during an inspection tour there, when they could expect to go back home, but he was unable to give them an answer, said Al Ra'i Arabdaily Saturday. The question and the answer both reflect the deep anxiety of the American forces, their parents and relatives over the fate of the young men and women being assembled in the desert of Saudi Arabia, said the paper. With the passage of time, more sectors of the American public are bound to be asking the same question and raising an outcry over the dangerous situation in the Gulf region which could engulf thousands of young troops with their weapons to fall as victims of Washington's greed and lust for war, the paper said. Despite Iraq's repeated statements that it has no interest in waging war on the Americans, nor to occupy any part of Saudi Arabia, the U.S. forces continue to mass and to prepare for war, the paper added. It said that the parents of the young men sent to fight Iraq in the desert clearly remember the Vietnam disaster, and are now anxious over the fate of their children who had been sent abroad to quench the lust of Washington's political leaders for blood and for disasters. The paper said that the American troops can be by no means form a shield to protect the desert which does not need their presence, and the safest option for them is to return home to their parents and their folks in United States.

Acolumnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the Ministry of Higher Education to take speedy measures to enable Jordanian expatriate students who have returned to Jordan from Kuwait to be admitted to Jordanian universities. Salah Abdul Samad says a political decision is now needed so that the Jordanian universities can absorb these students before it is too late. Students returning from Kuwait will certainly do not have the means to return to that country, nor can they pursue their studies abroad following the catastrophe that befell their parents who lost their means of living, says Abdul Samad. The fifth writer stresses that the students have the right to enter Jordanian universities on the same level with the other students especially as they have now returned to settle here in Jordan. The writer notes that these students have been waiting for so long to have the chance to continue their higher education. He says that it is up to the minister of higher education and the members of the Lower House of Parliament who will meet in the coming month to take the proper decisions and to enact legislations that can help the students to have access to higher education in the Kingdom. The writer says that a brave and effective decision should be taken to put an end to the students' sufferings.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic sanctions must fail

For two years of his first term as U.S. president, Bush worked actively against the application of economic sanctions against South Africa. The sanctions, he argued, are ineffective and lead to hardening of positions. Israel survived the Arab boycott for decades, and claimed that it helped its economy to be more self sufficient. Britain's Prime Minister Thatcher was more convincing in describing the economic sanctions as counter productive and immoral when the European Community was considering economic measures against South Africa.

Free trade is supposed to be beneficial to all parties. When you block sale of grain to Iraq, Iraq may suffer, but the exporters will suffer too, only because they will expect profits but also their capital, especially in the current glut in the world markets.

The United Nations Security Council has the right to take measures, but after the political withdrawal of the Soviet Union, the council was reduced to an instrument in the hands of the American administration, and that diluted its credibility.

The five resolutions taken against Iraq did not create a new situation. The council was simply approving positions already taken and implemented by the United States. In fact the blockade was approved by the U.N. two weeks after its implementation. The United States had already taken the law in its hand and when it did not like the law, it simply changed it.

The sanctions are currently imposed on selective basis; the frozen funds in Britain may be payable if the beneficiary is British. The Kuwaiti funds in the United States can be freed if they will be used to finance American military operations. The sanctions against Iraqi civil air transport are not applicable if the Iraqi airplanes were chartered to carry American or British citizens, and the Iraqi oil in transit can be imported to, and consumed in America as long as its price is frozen.

Another example of the double standards of the West is the selectivity in applying international law. The Security Council did not only vote against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, it also voted against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and South Lebanon. The council did not only declare void the annexation of Kuwait, it also rejected the annexation of Jerusalem. Why then are the Western powers so strict about international law here and not there?

LETTERS

Abolish veto powers

To the Editor:

THE "silver line" in the whole Middle East crisis has been the exposure of the totally undemocratic and arbitrary powers that are vested in the permanent members of the Security Council who are not answerable in any way to the wishes of other U.N. members who are expected to comply with the decisions of the council.

It is indeed regrettable that neither the U.N. secretary general nor the members of the Security Council have thought it fit to summon a General Assembly session to discuss the whole issue and provide an opportunity for the countries affected by the decisions of the Security Council to express their own views on the issues. The Security Council has also regrettably chosen to close their eyes to and thereby condone the innumerable acts of open interference into the internal affairs of member countries by some of the permanent members of the Security Council and their allies. No sanctions or other punitive action have been taken or even contemplated against such countries that have been consistently flouting the U.N. Charter and duly-approved U.N. resolutions.

Although Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has naturally drawn universal condemnation the obvious question that arises is why Iraq has virtually been singled out for such hasty and provocative U.S. action for being guilty of acts that have after all been no different from those regularly carried out by the U.S. and its allies.

The Security Council's outright rejection of the Iraqi offer to withdraw from Kuwait subject to concurrent withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Gulf, and Israeli and Syrian troops from the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon shows that, as far as the secretary general and the permanent members of the Security Council are concerned, what is sauce for the goose need not necessarily be sauce for the gander.

It is therefore, abundantly clear that the recent resolutions that have been thrust and jammed through the Security Council, primarily in the form of fait accompli, have not been based on any consistent policy or accepted principle. The Security Council has in particular been accommodating the wishes of the Western arms dealers and defence contractors who have been pushing their countries to provoke a conflict in the Middle East. The aim has also been to create a new profitable "threat" to substitute the now defunct "Soviet threat," which they used very effectively until both the U.S. and the Soviet governments were driven to the brink of virtual bankruptcy.

The world is however fortunate that the state of the U.S. economy on the one hand and the American public's awareness of the implications of a possible repetition of the Vietnam episode on the other, do not permit the Pentagon to launch out an actual military offensive. The polarisation within the Middle East has also resulted in there being no country who would be prepared to run the risk of declaring war and end up facing possible isolation in the Islamic world.

The Arab countries may also be aware that what the U.S. would be interested in, is not a quick end to the crisis, but a prolonged confrontation that would result in handsome U.S. arms sales to the Middle East and recovery of costs of recent U.S. military operations there from other countries.

The crux of U.S. reasons for the hurried involvement in the Middle East is evident from the recent huge arms sales to the region and from the U.S. president's plea for reimbursement of costs for their operations in the Gulf. It would not be surprising if the next U.S. move would be to push the U.N. to accept the U.S. forces retroactively as a U.N. force. The U.S. could then conduct a very profitable military operation and arms business under the umbrella of the U.N., in the same way as they did in the case of the Korean war.

It is accordingly abundantly clear that the U.N. has degenerated into an anachronism that merely serves as a convenient tool for those who happened by mere force of circumstances to have been on the winning side of the last World War. Much water has flown under the bridge during the past forty five years and the world at large could not possibly consider that the results of the last war are in any way more significant than the developments of the last few decades.

In any event if past "might" is a good enough reason to retain a seat as permanent member in the Security Council, the winners of the subsequent economic war would surely be equally entitled to membership. As some Japanese point out, how could the world's largest debtors claim a right to control the destinies of the U.N., and expect the world's largest creditors to be mere accomplices of the debtors.

However, what is required is not the mere substitution of past giants with present giants. What the world urgently needs is the early democratisation of the decision-making process of the U.N. and the abolition of the totally autocratic and outdated concept of having permanent Security Council members and veto powers.

Accordingly, if the United Nations is to function as a serious international body, sensitive to the wishes and aspirations of the member countries, all members of the Security Council or any alternative body that would function as the executive body must necessarily be elected by the present constituent members. A general council resolution calling for such democratisation of the decision-making process in the United Nations is now long overdue.

If this is not achievable, the Asian countries in particular would have no alternative but to group themselves into a truly democratic regional organisation as soon as possible thereby preventing any further foreign interference in the internal affairs of the region.

Bernard Wijedoru
Sri Lanka

Give peace a Chance!

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed to the mothers of foreign soldiers now deployed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf area.

We are a group of Jordanian mothers who have gotten together to send you this message to try and enlighten the American mothers about the situation in our country.

We are a peace-loving nation whose main goal is to educate our children and develop our country in order to give them a better place to live in.

This years since the end of World War I, which marked the beginning of international intervention in the Middle East, have been studied with U.N. resolutions to resolve the injustices of the occupation of the West Bank of Jordan and the Golan Heights by Israel, the occupation of Lebanon by Israel, the repatriation of refugees by Israel and the compensation for losses suffered by the Palestinians. Until this day none of these resolutions has been implemented! Why is it that in this present crisis, resolutions adopted against Iraq by the United States, England and more recently the United Nations, have been implemented immediately? The problem in the Middle East is a complex one with historical background involving border disputes and traditional conflicts mixed with the aspiration of Arab unity.

As our King Hussein has repeatedly told the world, in no way do we sanction the acquisition of land by force. Jordan, because of its geographical position is now suffering greatly because of the sanctions against Iraq and the economic outlook for our country is a grim one, indeed. Jordan, from the start, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein wisely chose the path of diplomacy to help solve this crisis which could become a world catastrophe if not properly handled. Is it because we chose this path that we suddenly find ourselves being given the cold shoulder by nations who for years we considered to be our friends?

America, by taking a neutral stand as a mediator, could help the Middle East solve its problems, but not by sending troops and escalating the chances for war. Your sons have been sent to the Middle East to interfere in a problem which is not theirs. Their presence in this region is a threat to their lives and to the lives of our children and will not solve the problem.

Don't you realise that if there is war we all lose our sons because of a short-sighted goal, cheap oil? Everyone knows of the abundance of oil in the Middle East. How much can we use? The Arabs cannot drink, eat or wear what is left. The West isn't going to be deprived of oil!

Why should we endanger the lives of our children and ours and deprive them of the right of a safe place to live in because some people have so much to gain both financially and politically if there is a war. Why should your President ruin so many years of mutual friendship and respect by taking such an aggressive stand, endanger world peace and at the same time play into the hands of this handful of people who stand to gain from this crisis?

America has always stood for liberty, freedom and justice for all. Don't change now.

Mothers, it is up to us as mothers everywhere, of all races and creeds, to use all the means within our power to help resolve this crisis in a peaceful way. We must act individually and as a whole before it is too late. Let us join forces and give peace a chance!

Jordanian mothers
P.O. Box 8431
Amman — Jordan

U.S. army for sale

To the Editor:

America's military is up for hire to whoever can pay! The price is \$46 million per day.

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein made one major mistake. He should have paid for the Americans in advance, and prior to his military operation into Kuwait. The Americans would have then interfered alongside Iraq with their new motto: The removal of the undemocratic, corrupt, and feudal rule in Kuwait!!

If history teaches us anything, it is the confirmation that everything can be bought including U.S. principles. Democracy and justice remain the main victims.

Izzat Dajani
Amman

Arab conference opens

(Continued from page 1)

PLO's third largest faction, called for drawing up a political programme which would serve as a basis of united political stands for all Arab countries.

"The fruits of Arab oil are for the Arab people and not for the sheikhs," said Hawatmeb in a blistering attack on the rulers of oil-rich Arab states in the Gulf.

"We, the Arab masses, have two choices at this stage in our history," Hawatmeb said. "We can bow to the pre-conditions of America and call the oil fields a part of the U.S. or we can resist the occupation and exploitation of Arab lands and Arab resources."

He called on the Arab people to shake "the Arab tree to rid it of its rotten leaves of reactionaries, foreign agents and oil sheikhs."

Tunisian delegate Mohammad

Salah Omar addressed the conference, attended by representatives of 20 Arab political parties and groups in 11 Arab countries, on behalf of 10 of the 11 non-Jordanian delegations.

Vigorously denouncing foreign intervention in Arab affairs, Omar blamed external forces' interference for creating a rift in the Arab ranks. "One of the first results of the foreign occupation and invasion of American troops was the creation of a split in the heart of the Arab League," he said.

Bahjat Abu Gharaibeh, a spokesman for JANDA and a veteran of Arab politics, expressed the general mood of the conference during his opening address. "Arab oil should have been a source for Arab independence. Instead it was the source of Arab exploitation by reactionaries and foreign powers alike."

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Guided by the lessons of history

By Serene Halasa

MANY of us will have heard this expression before, history has a way of repeating itself. Well, given the current circumstances, it is hard not to believe that today the whole Arab World is experiencing a period of time where history has indeed repeated itself.

In a documentary presented on Jordan Television last Wednesday night, and entitled the "End of an Empire," the subject dealt with the rise and fall of a nationalist figure in Iran by the name of Muhammad Musadakh. His only crime was that he was incorruptible, and loved his country dearly. He stood solidly in the face of imperialist powers headed at that time by Great Britain, and tried to stop them from ravaging and using his country and its resources for their own profits and gains. He simply tried to nationalise the oil industry that was solely under British monopoly.

So what crime is there in somebody trying to preserve what is legitimately his right and the rights of his people? To many people's minds, the answer is "nothing." But in Britain's opinion a lot. Well, what would you expect Britain's reaction to Musadakh's attempts to be? a) They forced an embargo, b) They sent in military warships and threatened to hit Abadan (the area where most of the oil wells and the British company was located), c) They froze Iranian assets all over the world especially in Great Britain d) They tried to influence world opinion and to rally them against Musadakh's honest and patriotic attempts e) They painted an ugly picture of Musadakh in world media, calling him a "megalomaniac," and accusing him of "mental instability."

History may have a way of repeating itself, but this time history will be our guide and teacher. We will live and learn from our forefathers' mistakes. Musadakh was tried as a traitor by the West. Saddam Hussein will never allow this to happen, simply because he is a patriot and not a traitor and also because the Arab masses and right are behind him.

The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

Iraq sanctions hurt Jordan badly

(Continued from page 1)

and the United Arab Emirates. Pre-invasion projections by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) put 1990 aid receipts at \$464 million.

The IMF was expecting Jordan's current account to show a 1990 deficit of just \$77 million, thanks partly to a big improvement in the trade balance in the first half of the year.

Independent Western estimates say the gap could now grow to \$1.2 billion and worsen to \$1.85 billion in 1991, when the IMF was anticipating a \$164 million deficit.

Even the brightest sectors of the economy are hurting because of the invasion and implementation of U.N. sanctions.

Fears of war have caused most tour operators to cancel bookings to Jordan, killing earlier hopes for a tourist boom. Activity at the port of Aqaba has slumped, not only because it is no longer handling the goods for Iraq that were 75 per cent of incoming business, but because of war risk insurance.

The Jordanian Shipping Agents Association appealed Monday to Lloyd's war risk rating committee to reconsider rates it said had stunned shippers, traders and industrialists.

The association's president, Tawfiq Kawar, blames Western reporting of the Gulf crisis for Aqaba's predicament. "The Western media have been killing Jordan," he told Reuters.

Government assurances that Amman was obeying sanctions had convinced masters and owners to stop calling ships back from Aqaba, but higher insurance rates were crippling business.

"In time it will kill the shipping industry and more important the export industry. Jordanian phosphates, for example, will lose their competitiveness," Kawar said.

At least two-fifths of Jordan's manufactured goods were sold to Iraq, its biggest market, and many firms were exporting exclusively to the Iraqi market using Central Bank finance.

Officials say Jordan has ceased payments on its foreign debt to all but multilateral creditors and a few others such as the United States, which punishes default by halting disbursements.

They say Amman still intends to complete rescheduling arrangements with the Paris Club of government creditors and commercial banks grouped in the London Club.

But major question marks hang over the IMF programme on which those agreements were predicated.

"All the old assumptions are gone," one Western economist said. "How will the budget deficit be financed? How will the balance of payments gap be bridged? Nobody knows."

Iraq warned U.S. against interfering

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — One week before he ordered his troops into Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq warned the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad that Washington should not oppose his aims in the Middle East because America "cannot accept 100,000 dead in one battle" and was vulnerable to terrorist attack, according to the Iraqi minutes of the July 25 conversation.

Ambassador April C. Glaspie did not respond directly to Mr. Hussein's menacing comments, concentrating instead on praising his "extraordinary efforts to rebuild" Iraq. She also gently probed the Iraqi leader's intentions in massing troops on Kuwait's border, but did not criticize the troop movements, according to the Iraqi transcript.

The State Department did not challenge the authenticity of the transcript Wednesday.

Iraq's version of the meeting shows Mr. Hussein gave Ms. Glaspie explicit warnings that he would take whatever action he deemed necessary to stop Kuwait from continuing an "economic war" against Iraq.

Her response, as recorded by the Iraqis, was to reassure Mr. Hussein that the United States took no official position on Iraq's border dispute with Kuwait.

In response to Mr. Hussein's comments about Iraq's need for higher oil prices, the ambassador said: "I know you need funds. We understand that and our opinion is that you should have the opportunity to rebuild your coun-

try. But we have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait."

Secretary of State James A. Baker "has directed our official spokesman to emphasize this instruction," she told Mr. Hussein.

The disclosure of the transcript to Western news media, which originated with Iraqi officials, appeared intended to emphasize that Mr. Hussein had reason to believe that the Bush administration would not offer any serious opposition to his move against Kuwait.

The administration has acknowledged that it was caught by surprise by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. But the tone and content of the transcript of the July 25 meeting called by Mr. Hussein strongly suggest that the official American misreading of Mr. Hussein's intentions and capabilities may have emboldened him to commit an act of aggression that has brought the United States to the brink of war in the Gulf.

While the Iraqi transcript is disjointed in places, the substance of Ms. Glaspie's recorded remarks closely parallels official U.S. positions stated in Washington at the same time, in which other State Department officials publicly disavowed any American security commitment to Kuwait.

A career foreign service officer, Ms. Glaspie made a point of telling Mr. Hussein that she was acting under instructions from Washington in responding to him.

Greeting her, Mr. Hussein said that he wanted his part of their

conversation to be a "message" to President George Bush. Reviewing U.S.-Iraqi differences, he singled out the secret shipments of U.S. arms to Iran in 1985 and 1986 and recalled that he magnanimously accepted President Ronald Reagan's "apology" to him "and we wiped the slate clean."

Mr. Hussein turned next to the devastated condition of the Iraqi economy because of eight years of war with Iran.

He suggested that the United States was supporting an effort by Kuwait to wage "another war against Iraq," an economic one.

The United States should be grateful to Iraq for having stopped Iran militarily because the United States could not fight such a war in the Gulf, Mr. Hussein said.

"I hold this view by looking at the geography and nature of American society," he said. "Yours is a society which cannot accept 10,000 dead in one battle."

Denouncing Kuwait, he demanded that the United States "declare who it wants to have relations with and who its enemies are."

"If you use pressure, we will deploy pressure and force," he said, adding: "We cannot come all the way to you in the United States but individual Arabs may reach you."

Ms. Glaspie did not respond to this rhetoric. She began her response by speaking of Mr. Bush's desire for friendship, pointing out that the administration rejected

suggestions to implement trade sanctions against Baghdad.

"I have a direct instruction from the president to seek better relations with Iraq," she told Mr. Hussein. "President Bush is an intelligent man. He is not going to declare an economic war against Iraq."

She then said she had been instructed "to ask you, in the spirit of friendship — not in the spirit of confrontation — regarding your intentions" about Kuwait in light of his massing troops on the border.

Mr. Hussein's response was that he hoped to settle his dispute with Kuwait peacefully. But he said that he regarded Kuwait's economic actions against Baghdad "as a military action against us."

"If we are not able to find a solution, then it will be natural that Iraq will not accept death, even though wisdom is above everything else," he said.

Mr. Glaspie took no notice of this implied threat in her concluding remarks. Instead, she told Mr. Hussein that she had worried that she would have to postpone her scheduled July 30 departure from Baghdad for consultations in Washington "because of the difficulties we are facing." But she said that she would leave as scheduled.

Thirty-six hours after her departure, Mr. Hussein launched his invasion. Ms. Glaspie has remained in Washington since then to underscore official U.S. displeasure with Mr. Hussein's action, according to the State Department. — Washington Post

Despite denials, Iran and Iraq have a deal

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

PARIS — A Tehran daily newspaper known to reflect the views of the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Thursday denied reports that Iran had agreed to take oil from Iraq to use in its refineries.

But American, Arab and Iranian oil company officials asserted that an agreement has been negotiated between the two countries allowing Iran to take about 200,000 barrels a day of Iraqi crude and some refined products such as fuel oil and naphtha that Iran used to import.

The Tehran Times, an English-language daily, quoted what it described as an informed source calling the reports, by The New York Times and The Associated Press, "totally baseless."

The newspaper, which is close to aides of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said the Iranian government had not yet decided whether to supply its blockaded neighbor with food and medicine, even though Iranian officials were quoted earlier by the same newspaper and other Iranian dailies as having said they would supply Iraq with such items.

"The government has kept its options open on that," the newspaper said.

American, Arab and Iranian oil company officials said Thursday that under the deal between Tehran and Baghdad, about 200,000 barrels of oil a day would be transported to Iran, some by barge across the Shatt Al Arab waterway to Abadan, and some overland in trucks to Ahwaz.

The officials said the Iraqi-initiated offer was made in the context of talks between the two countries in Tehran on Sunday and Monday. Oil Ministry and Foreign Ministry officials, including Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq, attended the talks. The Iraqi plan was intended to open a breach in the embargo against shipments of supplies and oil to or from Iraq or occupied Kuwait.

"It's a done deal," said a chief executive of an American oil firm that handles Middle East oil sales. "They will provide the oil by barges and trucks to be fed into Iranian refineries."

He said this would spare the Ira-

nians the need to send their own crude oil to the refineries and allow them to boost their exports from Kharg Island, the primary Iranian oil terminal in the Gulf.

The executive said that while he was certain the deal was made, he was not sure when it would begin or at what stage preparations for carrying it out stood.

He said the deal would mean that while Iraq gets to sell some of its oil, no Iraqi crude oil would surface on world oil markets, as it would be used internally within Iran. "It's small enough not to detect," the executive said.

Arab oil company officials said the plan assumes that the oil going to Abadan will be fed into a refinery there that can process about 130,000 barrels a day.

One Iranian oil executive in Western Europe confirmed that Iranian officials consulted him on these arrangements with Iraq.

He said some Iraqi oil would be trucked to Ahwaz overland. During the Iran-Iraq war from 1980 to 1988 Iraq developed a large tank fleet to transport about 200,000 barrels daily to the port of Aqaba in Jordan. The fleet, the oil company officials say, can easily be reactivated and expanded.

The Iranian executive said the deal was seen in Iran as a "small and symbolic" gesture primarily aimed at "encouraging" Iraqi dependence on Iran. He said there were discussions of expanding the deal eventually to higher volumes but that this would require the linking of Iraqi and Iranian pipelines, which may take a few months.

The American oil executive said Iraqi officials told him they hoped to boost exports to Iran to as much as 600,000 barrels a day.

Iraq produces about 2.6 million barrels of oil a day. Before the Aug. 2 invasion by Baghdad, Kuwait produced about 1.8 million barrels a day.

In addition, to the plan for oil shipments, an opposition group, known as the Flag of Freedom Organisation of Iran, claimed on Thursday that Iranian herdsmen in the provinces near Iraqi border have delivered more than one million sheep to Iraq using remote mountainous roads and were paid in gold by Iraq — The New York Times.

Germanys close the door for Soviet Jews

By Marc Fisher

BERLIN — The West German government has ordered an immediate halt to the flow of Soviet Jews to Germany, according to Bonn's Interior Ministry.

Thousands of Jews who have been trying to leave the Soviet Union for years have arrived in East Berlin in the last four months, recreating a Jewish community that had dwindled to near-extinction through the Nazi and Communist regimes.

But with tens of thousands more Soviet Jews asking for visas at East and West German consulates in several Soviet cities in the last few weeks, the Bonn government has told its diplomats to stop processing applications and has asked the East German government to give a similar order to its representatives in the Soviet Union.

Annette Kahan, director of the East Berlin office for foreigners, said in an interview that in the

last two weeks, the Bonn Interior Ministry repeatedly denied to her that there was any plan to stop the flow of Jews to the Germanys. The ministry announced the policy after receiving press inquiries about it.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble, along with Bonn's Foreign Ministry, issued the order to all West German offices in the Soviet Union "immediately" to process no further applications, according to an Interior Ministry statement.

The Bonn government said it would seek an agreement with the Soviet Union to impose an admission quota on Jewish immigrants after the Germanys unite Oct. 3.

The West German consulate in Kiev alone has 10,000 applications from Jews. Other consular offices in Moscow and elsewhere have similar numbers of visa requests.

— The Washington Post.

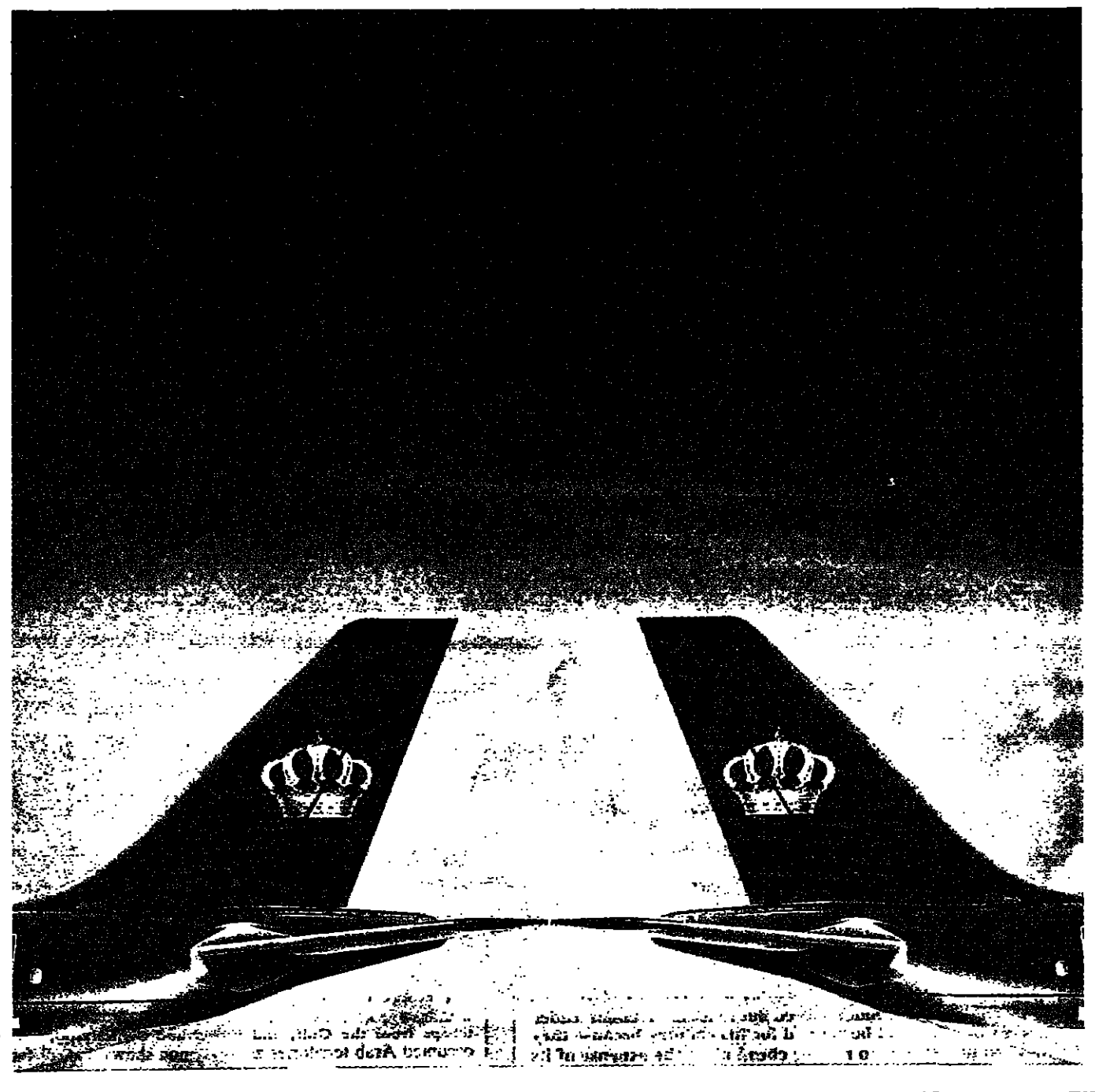
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France expands Gulf force, urges wider sanctions

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand urged widening the U.N. embargo of Iraq to air traffic Saturday and announced France will beef up ground forces in Saudi Arabia with warplanes, tanks, helicopters and 4,000 soldiers.

Mitterrand announced Iraqi military attacks in Paris and civilians allegedly working for Baghdad's secret services — about a dozen people in all — would be immediately expelled.

Other Iraqi diplomats will be confined to the Paris city limits in response to what Mitterrand called "Iraqi aggression" against the French embassy in Kuwait.

"But we won't be taking hostages," the French president said with muted irony at a press conference following an emergency meeting of his inner cabinet.

"The some 1,400 Iraqi civilians (in France) will not be made the object of these particular measures so long as they conform to our laws."

Iraqi Ambassador to France Abdul Razak Al Hashemi said Iraq "will take reciprocal measures at a diplomatic level" to what he termed an "unjustified escalation."

Hashemi said Friday that Iraq's merger with Kuwait means diplomats posted there have no standing under international law.

Mitterrand's announcement raised France's troop commitment in the Gulf to more than 13,100 soldiers, airmen and sailors.

He said France would send an army-air brigade composed of three regiments to Saudi Arabia. Minister of Defence, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, currently in Saudi Arabia, was to see King Fahd later Saturday.

Petits écrans jordaniens

Prêts pour la télévision de demain

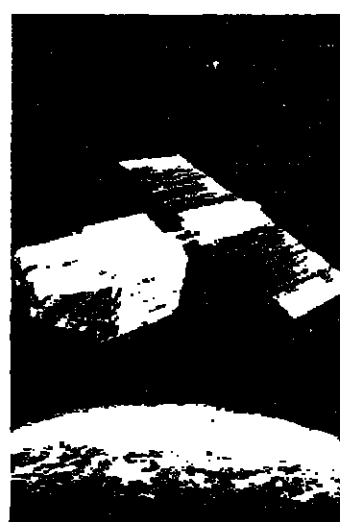
La télévision jordannienne est en pleine évolution. Sur le plan technique, elle est équipée depuis septembre 1988 de stations de réception satellites, qui lui permettent de bénéficier de programmes étrangers récents et d'échanger des reportages pour ses journaux télévisés. D'ici quelques mois, son directeur général envisage de lancer des chaînes thématiques retransmises par le système original des «microwaves». De quoi augmenter considérablement ses ressources et améliorer d'autant la quantité et la qualité de ses programmes locaux, déjà marqués par un net courant d'ouverture politique lié à la démocratisation du pays.

Dans son bureau lumineux de la JTV, Radi Al-Khas pianote sur sa télécommande pour passer d'un satellite à l'autre et voir ce que diffusent CNN (la chaîne d'information continue américaine) ou Canal France International (la chaîne de programmes français gratuits à destination des télévisions étrangères).

«J'espère, explique le directeur général de la télévision jordannienne, que bientôt tous les Jordaniens pourront en faire autant, chez eux.» Son projet, déjà bien avancé, consiste à proposer aux Jordaniens de recevoir, en

plus des programmes actuels de la JTV, trois chaînes thématiques dont le contenu est déjà défini: une chaîne d'information, une chaîne de divertissement et une chaîne exclusivement sportive.

En général, l'implantation de ces chaînes thématiques nécessite l'existence d'un réseau de câble optique, par lequel la télévision nationale diffuse les chaînes qu'elle reçoit par satellite. Mais la Jordanie ne dispose pas d'un tel réseau et son installation est coûteuse et compliquée. La technique que la JTV envisage d'utiliser repose sur les «microwaves»



(micro ondes) qui permettent de multiplier les signaux (et donc les chaînes) transmises par voie hertzienne. Tout foyer, équipé d'une antenne spéciale, pourra les recevoir. «Nous avons déjà un accord avec CNN pour la chaîne d'information. La société de production jordannienne d'Etat (JPC) devrait fournir des soap-opéras en arabe pour la chaîne de divertissement; et nous sommes en tractations avec plusieurs autres chaînes diffusées par satellite pour la chaîne sportive», explique Radi Al-Khas. Le système des microwaves est déjà expérimenté depuis plus d'un an par la télévision jordannienne et fonctionne bien. Le problème technique est donc résolu.

Une société mixte composée à 20% de capitaux d'Etat et à 80% de capitaux privés ouverts aux actionnaires jordaniens devrait gérer la diffusion et installer des antennes capables de recevoir les fameuses microwaves dans les foyers intéressés, moyennant paiement. La partie programmes serait élaborée par la JTV en utilisant les chaînes satellites existantes. Si tout va bien - mais le projet est déjà retardé à cause des événements actuels - cette nouvelle télévision devrait voir le jour au début de l'année prochaine.

Elle aura des conséquences sur les programmes des chaînes existantes. Actuellement, en effet, une grande partie du contenu des deux chaînes repose sur des programmes achetés à l'étranger. Dès lors que les chaînes thématiques reprendront déjà des programmes étrangers, il faudra repenser la programmation des chaînes traditionnelles et accroître la production locale. Un sondage, réalisé en avril dernier a révélé que les goûts du téléspectateur jordannien se portaient avant tout sur les feuilletons produits dans le royaume et sur les feuilletons arabes en général, qui réalisent de bien meilleurs scores que les programmes étrangers sous-titrés.

Radi Al-Khas pense qu'avec les revenus des chaînes thématiques il sera en droit de réclamer une augmentation de son budget au ministère de l'Information.

Toutes les ressources apportées par la télévision: La redevance (12 dinars par an et par foyer, pour un montant total d'environ 5 millions de dinars) et la publicité (1 million de dinars environ de revenus annuels), sont versées au gouvernement, qui définit ensuite, à son gré, le budget de la télévision. Actuellement la publicité est maigre et bon marché (les annonceurs jordaniens bénéficient de 50% de réduction et les ventes aux annonceurs étrangers ont baissé de moitié depuis la crise économique), mais les chaînes thématiques pourraient révéler le marché. Avec un budget accru, Radi Al-Khas songe même à développer des programmes régionaux, différents d'une ville à l'autre, à certaines heures. Le budget actuel de la télévision jordannienne, en stagnation à 5,1 millions de dinars, est absorbé pour sa plus grande part par l'achat de programmes et l'entretien ou le remplacement des équipements tech-

France-Irak: le ton monte

La France n'a pas tardé à réagir à l'intrusion, vendredi, de militaires irakiens dans son ambassade de Koweït-city et à l'arrestation, dans son enceinte, de quatre de ses ressortissants dont un seul - l'attaché militaire - a été libéré à l'heure où nous bouclons ces pages.

A peine rentré d'un voyage officiel en Tchécoslovaquie, le président François Mitterrand réunissait samedi matin un conseil des ministres restreint sur cette affaire, à l'issue duquel il annonçait une série de mesures de représailles.

La première consiste à saisir le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU sur la violation de l'ambassade de Koweït-city, dont le président français a rappelé que, selon la convention de Vienne établie en 1961, elle était - comme toute ambassade ou consulat - un espace placé sous la souveraineté de l'Etat qu'elle représente et, en tant que telle, inviolable.

François Mitterrand a également annoncé la saisine du Conseil de Sécurité sur les «trop nombreux» manœuvres observés à l'embargo contre l'Irak, et sur les moyens d'agir face aux pays et aux entreprises qui le transgressent. Il proposera également une extension de l'embargo au trafic aérien.

Sur le plan diplomatique, les mesures de rétorsion françaises prendront quatre formes: expulsion des attachés militaires de l'ambassade d'Irak à Paris; fichage des agents de renseignement irakiens à Paris, bénéficiant ou non de l'immunité diplomatique; expulsion de 26 stagiaires militaires irakiens en France; et interdiction de sortir de Paris pour l'ensemble du personnel de l'ambassade d'Irak dans la capitale française. Le président a toutefois précisé que la France «ne prenait pas d'otages» puisqu'aucune mesure n'a été décidée à l'encontre des 1.500 irakiens résidents en France.

Sur le plan militaire, enfin, le président Mitterrand a annoncé l'envoi d'une brigade aéro-terrestre en Arabie Saoudite, composée de trois régiments. En tout, ce sont plus de 4.000 soldats français qui vont venir s'ajouter à la force internationale dans le Golfe, avec 48 hélicoptères et 30 avions de combat, 48 chars, des missiles anti-chars et anti-aériens.

Cette réponse rapide, ferme, et imposante, intervient donc au lendemain d'une série d'intrusions irakiennes dans des ambassades occidentales au Koweït. Outre l'ambassade de France, les ambassades du Canada, de Belgique et des Pays-Bas ont reçu également la visite forcée de militaires irakiens, mais sans subir d'arrestations.

Des intrusions, que l'agence d'information irakienne a démenties, affirmant que les troupes irakiennes avaient pour consigne formelle de ne pas pénétrer dans les missions diplomatiques au Koweït, «même si leurs diplomates encore sur place ont perdu leur immunité». L'ultimatum de l'Irak pour la fermeture de toutes les ambassades au Koweït et l'installation de leurs personnels à Bagdad a expiré le 24 août dernier, alors que 17 missions diplomatiques sur les 66 présentes avant le 2 août refusaient toujours de s'y plier.

L'Irak soutient que la convention de Vienne ne s'applique pas aux «ex-missions diplomatiques» et donc pas à celles qui demeurent en place à Koweït-city.

Un bras de fer diplomatique, à l'intérieur du conflit du Golfe, vient clairement s'engager entre la France et l'Irak. Il est appuyé par une présence accrue des forces françaises dans le Golfe. Si ce n'est pas encore la rupture entre Bagdad et Paris, les événements de cette fin de semaine en ont beaucoup rapproché l'hypothèse.

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D'CEIL

Mathématiques modernes

La politique n'étant pas une science exacte, les calculs qui lui sont propres peuvent parfois choquer. Ainsi, l'équation interallemande, longtemps cohérente grâce aux quatre vainqueurs de la seconde guerre mondiale, n'a plus de raison d'être aujourd'hui. Finies les négociations dites «2 plus 4», ou si vous préférez «6 moins 4». Le résultat, on l'aura prochainement avec l'émergence d'une seule Allemagne.

Drôles de calculs également lorsque l'on découvre que pour atteindre une «crédibilité» militaire et une dissuasion «réelle» dans le Golfe, les Etats-Unis ont besoin de masser encore plus de troupes de choc en Arabie Saoudite et ailleurs. Là, l'équation avec l'Irak n'est pas encore trouvée. C'est du moins ce qu'affirme le secrétaire américain à la «défense», lorsqu'il estime nécessaire la poursuite du déploiement des forces, tant que la situation «l'exigera» (voilà une source de souci, une de plus, pour ceux qui sont appelés à honorer la facture de ce rappel à l'ordre régional, voire international).

Reste à dire que tous les calculs politiques dans cette région risquent d'être corrigés (multipliés par deux?) depuis la normalisation des relations irako-iranienne, après des années d'une guerre qui a fait un nombre incalculable de victimes...

Ayman Masannat

Précision

Suite à notre article de dimanche dernier, intitulé «Conférence au CERMOC: le faux problème de l'invasion du Koweït», le Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain (CERMOC), nous adresse la remarque suivante, que nous faisons nôtre sans réserve: Le titre de cet article est un titre journalistique qui résume, certes, ce que les auditeurs auront pu retenir de cette conférence, mais qui ne doit pas être confondu avec l'intitulé de la table ronde, défini par le CERMOC, qui était «Les conséquences possibles de la crise du Golfe».

Le CERMOC précise en outre que les propos tenus à cette table ronde n'engagent que ceux qui en ont tenu et que le CERMOC, en tant qu'Institut scientifique, ne saurait émettre quelque opinion que ce soit, sur ce problème ou sur un autre.

ment qui doit renouveler sa confiance au gouvernement chaque année.

La censure existe en Jordanie, mais elle s'exerce plus, aujourd'hui, dans un sens moral et religieux que dans un sens politique. La victoire des Frères Musulmans, lors des élections de novembre 1989, a révélé la sensibilité de nombreux Jordaniens à ces problèmes. «Nous nous devons de ne pas les heurter», explique Radi Al-Khas.

La télévision jordannienne évolue beaucoup ces derniers temps, et les progrès les plus spectaculaires sont encore à venir.

Jean-Marc Bordes

LA SEMAINE... de Suleiman Sweiss

Quel rôle pour Israël?

Comment Israël a-t-elle réagi face à la crise du Golfe arabe, et quelles sont les répercussions de cette crise sur le rôle d'Israël dans la région?

Nous nous permettons de poser de telles questions après les visites que deux hauts responsables israéliens ont effectuées récemment à Washington: David Lévy, le ministre des affaires étrangères et Mosheh Arens, le ministre de la défense israélien. Ajoutons à cela les rapports venant de Tel-Aviv ces jours-ci et qui reflètent «l'inquiétude» que suscite l'éventualité d'une solution politique chez les responsables en Israël.

Au cours des trois premières semaines de la crise, les dirigeants israéliens ont observé une certaine prudence, voire un mutisme, évitant soigneusement toute déclaration. Ils se contentaient de dire que la crise «prouvait qu'Israël n'était pas la source de l'instabilité dans la région, mais que c'était plutôt l'Irak».

Sans doute ne voulaient-ils pas gêner leurs alliés américains au moment où ceux-ci déployaient leurs forces en Arabie. Une collusion spectaculaire américano-israélienne aurait été mal perçue par les «amis» arabes de Washington. De plus, l'accaparement de l'opinion publique internationale par les développements de la crise du Golfe permettait aux israéliens de détourner l'attention de l'intifada, qui en était la semaine dernière à son millième jour. Ce qui importe pour l'Etat d'Israël c'est de recevoir davantage d'immigrants juifs et d'assurer leur installation en territoires palestiniens occupés.

Sur un autre plan, l'attitude palestinienne de solidarité avec l'Irak a été l'occasion pour Tel-Aviv de dénigrer leur «bête noire». L'OLP a donné «la preuve qu'elle était hostile à la paix» (sic), parce qu'elle ne s'est pas rangée aux côtés «des régimes sages tels que l'Egypte de Moubarak». On oublie le refus du plan Baker par les israéliens quelques semaines auparavant! La légèreté des observations israéliennes est frappante.

Néanmoins, les israéliens s'attendaient à une action militaire américaine contre l'Irak. Le «conseiller» sioniste qu'est Henry Kissinger, l'ancien secrétaire d'Etat américain, n'a pas mâché ses mots: il fallait déclarer la guerre à l'Irak tout de suite. L'apparition d'une force militaire arabe met en rage les israéliens. La ruée de ceux-ci pour s'acheter des masques à gaz a inquiété les responsables. Détruire la force irakienne est devenu une priorité en Israël. Même si les troupes irakiennes se retirent du Koweït, en vertu d'un compromis politique plausible, les israéliens ne seront pas en tranquillité.

Dès que le spectre de la guerre s'est éloigné un peu de la péninsule arabe, les israéliens ont eu peur. Les initiatives politiques irakiennes, notamment celle qui lie la crise dans le Golfe au problème palestinien, mettent les dirigeants de Tel-Aviv en colère. Ils ne se sont pas habitués à ce nouveau langage arabe. Les propositions de Moscou pour la tenue d'une conférence internationale sur les problèmes de la région, soutenues par Paris, sèment le désarroi dans les rangs israéliens.

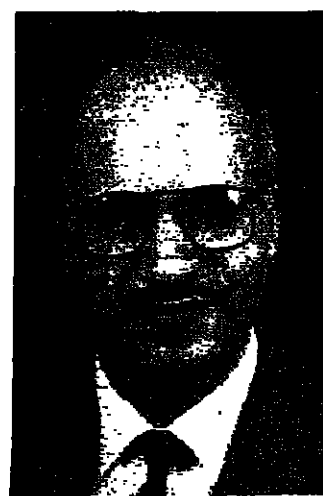
Mais au-delà des calculs tactiques, l'inquiétude israélienne a des causes beaucoup plus profondes:

1- Si Israël est une «base stratégique mobile» comme le Pentagone américain l'a toujours considéré, pourquoi envoyer 135.000 soldats américains, avec tout l'équipement militaire que l'on sait en Arabie? Dans le meilleur des cas, on ne se servira d'Israël que comme point d'appui, comme dépôt de munitions, bref, pour des besoins logistiques.

2- Après la fin de la guerre froide, le contributeur américain se demande pourquoi les Etats-Unis continuent à payer à Israël six milliards de dollars par an, au moment où les services sociaux américains souffrent de compressions budgétaires importantes.

3- N'y a-t-il pas une tendance générale, à la lumière de la nouvelle politique soviétique dite de «l'équilibre des intérêts», à vouloir résoudre «le plus vieux conflit israélo-arabe sur des bases équitables»? Encore une fois, il n'y aura jamais de paix dans cette région -vital pour le monde- sans solution du problème palestinien.

Bien sûr, cela ne signifie pas que Washington lâche Israël. Les soutiens financiers (pour absorber les immigrants) et militaire vient d'être renouvelé lors des visites des ministres israéliens. Mais une chose est certaine: les règles du jeu telles qu'on les connaissait avant le 2 août dernier, ne seront plus jamais les mêmes.



Libéria. Le Libéria a deux présidents auto-proclamés, et au moins deux autres hommes prétendent à la direction de ce petit pays après l'assassinat du président Samuel Doe dimanche dernier. L'ancien officier Prince Johnson s'est proclamé président dimanche après que ses maquisards eurent blessé, capturé puis exécuté le président Samuel Doe. Une proclamation contestée aussitôt par le chef de ce qui reste de la garde présidentielle, le général David Nimley, qui revendique lui aussi la présidence. Aucun Etat n'a reconnu l'un ou l'autre de ces «présidents», ne serait-ce que parce que le rebelle et ses quelques centaines de maquisards ne contrôlent que le port et un quartier de la capitale, tandis que le général n'a plus sous son contrôle que la résidence présidentielle et ses abords. Ils sont tous deux encerclés par les forces d'un autre chef rebelle, l'ancien haut fonctionnaire Charles Taylor, qui a conquis la quasi-totalité du pays avec plusieurs milliers de maquisards. Pendant ce temps, le professeur Amos Sawyer aurait reçu l'investiture officielle de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) pour diriger le gouvernement provisoire qu'elle tente d'installer.

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc Bordes, French section, Jordan Times.
P.O. Box 6710. Tél: 667171.

Conférence. Des représentants de plus de 120 partis et organisations arabes sont depuis samedi, et pour trois jours, réunis à la cité des sports d'Amman pour débattre de la crise du Golfe. Cette conférence, organisée par le Rassemblement démocratique national arabe jordannien, qui regroupe depuis le mois de juillet les forces de gauche du royaume, a été ouverte officiellement hier par le roi Hussein. Parmi les participants, on notera la présence de MM. Nayef Hawatmeh et George Habash, leaders respectifs du Front Démocratique de Libération de la Palestine (FDLP) et du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine (FPLP), deux des principales factions de l'OLP. Les deux hommes, qui n'étaient plus venus à Amman depuis 1970, pronont un règlement global des conflits du Moyen-Orient. Pour George Habash, l'absence d'un tel règlement sous l'égide de la communauté internationale pourrait réveiller un sentiment de «légitimité révolutionnaire» au sein des masses arabes pour atteindre leurs objectifs.

JEUNE HOMME MAITRISE LE FRANÇAIS

Jordanien, né en 1959, célibataire, parlant le français et l'anglais. Qualifications: 1-Certificat en topographie (France-1981), 2-Diplôme en Hotel Management and Tourisme (Suisse-1989). Cherche un travail, de préférence selon ses expériences, dans le cadre de management, marketing, relations publiques. Pour une interview, écrire SVP à Hadi AJLOUNI, P.O. Box 141194, Amman, Tel. 639272.

EN BREF

Jordanie-OLP. Le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat, a quitté Amman mercredi soir au terme d'une brève visite, qui est sa première depuis l'invasion, le 2 août, du Koweït par l'Irak. Au cours de sa visite, le dirigeant palestinien a procédé avec le roi Hussein à un échange de vues sur les efforts déployés pour une solution politique arabe à la crise du Golfe.

Camps. Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR) a ouvert mercredi le camp de transit d'Azrak et a commencé à y recevoir plusieurs milliers de personnes en provenance du poste frontière de Shalaan 1. L'ouverture de ce camp avait été retardée parce que le premier site choisi pour son installation se trouvait au dessus d'une nappe phréatique utilisée pour l'approvisionnement en eau de la capitale jordannienne. Le CICR restera présent à Shalaan 1, qui va devenir un centre d'aiguillage des personnes en transit, où elles recevront une aide médicale.

Accident. Dix personnes ont trouvé la mort et 12 autres ont été blessées dans une collision, vendredi, entre un car transportant des évacués Srilankais de Roweshed à Azrak et un camion-citerne. Les blessés ont été acheminés par un hélicoptère de l'armée jordannienne vers la cité médicale du roi Hussein, à Amman.

Helsinki. Les Etats-Unis et l'Union soviétique ont affirmé dimanche à Helsinki leur «unité» face à la crise du Golfe, exigeant la mise en œuvre intégrale des résolutions de l'ONU. Le président soviétique, Mikhaïl Gorbatchev a souligné qu'une action militaire provoquée par l'Irak serait «une tragédie». «Il ne va pas nous diviser, comme il ne va pas diviser les autres pays», a souligné pour sa part son homologue américain George Bush, parlant de Saddam Hussein. Dans un communiqué commun publié à l'issue du sommet, les deux super-grands se sont déclarés prêts à «envisager, dans le cadre des Nations-Unies, des mesures supplémentaires» contre l'Irak si les mesures déjà prises échouaient.

Secours. Reconnaissant que l'envoi de nourriture aux populations civiles d'Irak et du Koweït pourrait s'avérer nécessaire, notamment pour les enfants de moins de 15 ans et pour les femmes enceintes, le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU a adopté vendredi une résolution autorisant, dans ce cas, de tels envois, sous l'égide et le contrôle des Nations-Unies, de la Croix-Rouge internationale et des autres organisations humanitaires. Cette résolution est assortie du rappel que c'est au Conseil de Sécurité, en collaboration éventuelle avec le comité de sanctions, de définir si les conditions humanitaires nécessitant ces envois sont, oui ou non, réunies en Irak et au Koweït.

Gratuit. Le président irakien Saddam Hussein a proposé lundi de fournir gratuitement du pétrole irakien aux pays du Tiers-Monde qui en feraient la demande. Dans un appel à la solidarité anti-impérialiste, il a invité les pays concernés à faire connaître leurs besoins auprès de l'Irak, ajoutant qu'ils devront assurer eux-mêmes et à leurs frais le transport du pétrole si Bagdad s'avère incapable de le faire. En réponse, le porte-parole de la Maison-Blanche a rappelé que les sanctions de l'ONU «concernent également le pétrole, à quelque prix que ce soit» et a ajouté que cette offre montrait que M. Hussein «était désespéré».

Procès. L'agence officielle d'information irakienne a annoncé vendredi que le «procès» intenté au président américain George Bush devant un «tribunal populaire» irakien s'ouvrira le 15 octobre. Ce procès est intenté à l'initiative de l'ordre des avocats irakiens pour juger, selon lui, «les crimes contre l'humanité et contre les peuples qui aspirent à la liberté» du président Bush. Une annonce qui suit de quelques jours le vote par le Sénat américain d'une résolution demandant que le chef de l'Etat irakien Saddam Hussein soit poursuivi comme «criminel de guerre» si les hostilités étaient déclenchées dans le Golfe. La résolution reproche au leader irakien d'avoir «violé les normes de comportement civilisé en mettant en danger volontairement les vies de civils étrangers au Koweït et en Irak».

Jihad. La plus haute instance de théologiens musulmans en Irak, le «Conseil des grands Ulémas», a prononcé mercredi une Fatwa (décret religieux) appelant tous les musulmans au Jihad (guerre sainte) afin d'écarter les dangers émanant de la présence américaine en Arabie Saoudite. Le même jour en Iran, le guide de la République islamique, l'ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a assimilé le combat contre la «politique hégémoniste des Etats-Unis» dans le Golfe à une «guerre sainte» et a invité les musulmans à commencer cette guerre «de leur propre gré et pour la gloire de Dieu».

Koweït. Le prince héritier et Premier ministre koweïtien, cheikh Saad, a reçu pendant près d'une heure trente à Paris les ambassadeurs arabes accrédités en France, à l'exception de l'ambassadeur d'Irak. Les ambassadeurs ou chargés d'affaires des huit pays qui n'ont pas explicitement condamné l'invasion irakienne du Koweït (Algérie, Libye, OLP, Mauritanie, Soudan, Jordanie, Tunisie et Yémen) étaient également présents. Cheikh Saad, qui avait été reçu lundi par le président français et le Premier ministre Michel Rocard, se trouvait la semaine dernière à Rome, alors que se tenait une réunion extraordinaire des ministres des Affaires Etrangères de la CEE consacrée à la crise du Golfe. Il a affirmé qu'il regagnerait Taëf avec le sentiment d'avoir obtenu de la France, de l'Italie et de la CEE tout l'appui politique que le Koweït souhaitait.

Visites. Le secrétaire d'Etat américain James Baker a eu vendredi des entretiens avec le président Hafez al-Assad à Damas, pour s'assurer que le dirigeant syrien restera ferme dans son opposition à l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak. Vingt-quatre heures plus tard, le ministre syrien partait pour Téhéran, où il devait rencontrer le guide de la République islamique, Ali Khamenei.

Dévaluation. Le Shekel, la monnaie israélienne, a perdu lundi 2,8% par rapport au dollar qui coûte désormais 2,08 Shekels contre 2,02 précédemment, à la suite d'un réajustement monétaire intervenu la veille. La ruée, depuis la crise du Golfe, des israéliens -particuliers et sociétés- sur les devises étrangères, le renchérissement du pétrole et l'arrivée massive des juifs soviétiques en Israël depuis le début de l'année ont conduit à cette dévaluation. Le ministre israélien des finances prépare actuellement un sévère plan d'austérité pour contrer ces facteurs négatifs.

Pakistan. Les nouvelles autorités du Pakistan ont officiellement porté plainte lundi contre le Premier ministre déchu Benazir Bhutto pour abus de pouvoir. Mme Bhutto est poursuivie devant un tribunal spécial de Karachi qui a pouvoir de disqualifier pendant sept ans de la vie publique toute personnalité politique reconnue coupable de malversations.

2 plus 4. Les représentants des deux Etats allemands et des quatre vainqueurs de la Seconde guerre mondiale (2 plus 4) ont signé, mercredi à Moscou, un traité mettant officiellement fin à la situation héritée de la guerre en Allemagne. Le traité prévoit le rétablissement de la souveraineté de l'Allemagne dans ses frontières actuelles et le départ de son sol des troupes soviétiques en quatre ans maximum. Il établit également un certain nombre d'engagements contraignants de la part de l'Allemagne, essentiellement pour limiter sa puissance militaire.

Tennis. L'Américain Pete Sampras, tête de série No 12, a remporté la finale du simple messieurs des internationaux de tennis des Etats-Unis en battant en trois sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, son compatriote Andre Agassi (No 4), dimanche dernier à Flushing Meadow. Pete Sampras jouait sa première finale d'un tournoi du Grand Chelem: Agé de 19 ans et 23 jours, il est devenu le plus jeune vainqueur de l'US Open.

Budget. En réponse à la crise du Golfe, le gouvernement français a adopté mercredi en conseil des ministres un projet de budget pour 1991, qui prévoit une réduction de ses dépenses de 8 milliards de FF (1,5 milliards de dollars) par rapport à ses prévisions initiales du début de l'été.

Corse. Un groupe clandestin corse, inconnu jusqu'à ces jours-ci, a revendiqué mercredi matin quatre nouveaux attentats à la bombe perpétrés dans la nuit en Corse, ce qui porte à huit le nombre d'attentats qu'il a commis en moins d'une semaine dans cette île française de la Méditerranée. Les attentats, perpétrés contre quatre agences bancaires de Bastia, ont été revendiqués par téléphone à l'AFP par l'«Armée de libération nationale de la Corse». Aucune victime n'a été signalée.

Kénizé Mourad, journaliste et romancière

La plus romanesque des histoires vraies

Kénizé Mourad est journaliste et romancière. Pendant douze ans, elle a travaillé comme grand reporter spécialisé dans les affaires du Moyen-Orient et du sous-continent indien. En 1987, elle a publié chez Robert Laffont «De la part de la princesse morte», un roman qui a connu un succès

Le Jourdain: Le lecteur n'a pas encore en l'occurrence de lire votre roman. Pouvez-vous nous le résumer?

KM: C'est une histoire authentique qui commence en 1918 à la cour du dernier sultan de l'Empire ottoman. Selma, une sept ans quand elle voit s'écrouler cet empire qui a fait trembler l'Europe. Condamnée à l'exil, la famille impériale s'installe au Liban. Selma, qui a perdu à la fois son pays et son père, y sera la «princesse aux bas reprisés». C'est à Beyrouth qu'elle grandira et rencontrera son premier amour, un jeune chef druze; amour bientôt brisé. Selma acceptera alors d'épouser un Rajah indien qu'elle n'a jamais vu. Aux Indes, elle vivra les fastes des Maradjahs, les derniers jours de l'empire britannique et la lutte pour l'indépendance, menée par Gandhi. Mais là, comme au Liban, elle reste «l'étrangère». Rejetée par ce peuple qu'elle s'était promise d'aimer, elle s'enfuira à Paris. Elle y trouvera enfin le véritable amour. La guerre l'en séparera et elle mourra dans la misère, à 29 ans, après avoir donné naissance à une fille. Cette fille c'est moi, l'auteur de ce récit.

LJ: De quelle nationalité vous sentez-vous? Turque, Indienne ou Française?

KM: Même si j'ai une éducation intellectuelle française, sentimentalement je me sens plutôt «diers-mondiste» et en particulier «moyen-orientale». Du côté de ma mère, je suis Turque et je suis

attachée à l'histoire turque. Du côté de mon père, indien, c'est la famille Zay'di, du Yémen, dont une branche s'est installée en Inde. C'est sans doute parce que je ressens la psychologie orientale de l'intérieur que je comprends mieux les problèmes du Proche-Orient et que je peux faire mieux mon travail de journaliste spécialisée dans cette région du monde.

LJ: N'est-il pas difficile de concilier le travail journalistique avec celui de romancier? Comment et quand l'écriture romanesque vous a-t-elle tentée?

KM: J'ai commencé à vouloir écrire des romans quand je couvrais la révolution islamique en Iran et au cours du siège de Beyrouth en 1982. Ce qui se passait relevait tellement de la grande épopée, avec des drames sociaux et psychologiques dont on ne peut pas parler en profondeur dans les quotidiens ou même dans les hebdomadaires... J'avais envie d'aller plus loin, et je me suis rendue compte que je ne pouvais pas faire comprendre aux lecteurs européens les problèmes et les mentalités des pays du Moyen-Orient par des articles mais que je pouvais le faire beaucoup mieux par des livres. Les événements ont leurs sources, finalement, dans les psychologies et les structures sociales. Si on écrit sur les événements comme on le fait dans les journaux, alors on n'explique pas grand chose.

J'ai le privilège d'appartenir en même temps à deux mondes (occidental et orien-

tal). Comme d'autres qui sont dans la même situation, j'essaie de faire un lien entre ces deux mondes qui se comprennent si mal. D'où les guerres et les drames que nous voyons constamment, notamment ces jours-ci.

LJ: Comment expliquez-vous le succès de votre roman «De la part de la princesse morte»?



Kénizé Mourad, la fille de la princesse.

KM: Le succès est dû à plusieurs facteurs. D'abord, l'histoire de ma mère est très romanesque et je n'aurais jamais osé inventer quelque chose d'aussi romanesque. Ce fait a passionné les lecteurs. Mais c'est le côté superficiel, car le succès vient du fait que les gens sont entrés dans des civilisations qui leur étaient inconnues de l'intérieur. Ils ont appris des choses sur ce monde d'une façon à la fois profonde et facile. Lorsqu'un livre est de qualité et qu'il s'appuie sur une énorme documentation, il devient accessible au grand public.

J'ai travaillé beaucoup et

j'ai fouillé tous les détails, non seulement de la vie extérieure, mais aussi de la psychologie de ces sociétés à cette époque. Pour y arriver, j'ai lu les journaux de l'époque, j'ai visité le musée britannique, la bibliothèque nationale turque, la grande bibliothèque nationale de New-Delhi... Par ailleurs, j'ai interviewé mille personnes de différents pays. J'ai mis deux ans et demi à réaliser ce travail de documentation et d'interview, et un an et demi à rédiger le roman.

LJ: N'aurait-il pas été plus «objectif» que de soit quel- qu'un d'autre qui écrive le roman?

KM: J'avais des éléments sur la vie et le caractère de ma mère. Il me manquait beaucoup de choses, parfois contradictoires. Je n'ai pu écrire ce livre qu'en me mettant dans la peau de ma mère. Parfois des choses me venaient - je ne savais pas comment - comme des évidences. Je les écrivais. Après la sortie du livre, j'ai reçu beaucoup de lettres de gens qui avaient connu ma mère. Ils disaient c'est formidable comme cela correspond à la réalité.

Côté historique, je crois qu'on n'a jamais écrit sur la fin de l'empire ottoman de l'intérieur. J'ai appris récemment que «De la part de la princesse morte» est enseigné à l'université de Harvard (USA) aux étudiants de Sciences-Politiques, spécialisés dans le Moyen-Orient.

Propos recueillis par Salehman Sweiss

Sans blague!

Le sommet d'Helsinki comme si vous y étiez

Readlips, chef instructeur à l'école des sourds-muets, se trouvait par hasard à Helsinki dimanche dernier. Muni de puissants binoculaires, il prit position sur le toit d'un bâtiment situé juste en face de l'ancien palais royal, lieu de la réunion au sommet entre Bush et Gorbatchev. A travers la baie vitrée du salon dans laquelle se réunirent

les deux hommes, il put suivre toute leur conversation en «lisant» le mouvement des lèvres de Bush et de son interprète (vous aurez sans doute deviné que Readlips connaissait bien l'anglais mais pas un seul mot de russe). Voici une partie de cette conversation.

«-Dites George, pourquoi avez-vous tant insisté pour tenir cette conférence si précipitamment?

«-Eh bien, parce que les princes du pétrole, ainsi d'ailleurs que Moubarak et d'autres, commencent à s'impaciter. Les princes ont déjà déboursé plusieurs dizaines de milliards dans l'espoir de déloger au plus vite Saddam du Koweït. Comme ils sentent que les choses commencent à tourner, ils insistent pour que nos forces attaquent. Pour sauver la face, je n'ai pas trouvé mieux que de tenir cette conférence. Je vais pouvoir leur dire que vous vous êtes absolument opposés à la guerre mais que j'ai obtenu votre approbation sur le renforcement du blocus.

«-Etes vous sûr que les princes du pétrole veulent vraiment qu'une guerre soit déclenchée? Ne leur avez-vous pas expliqué que tous leurs milliards (sept-cents, si mes informations sont exactes) pourraient ne pas suffire à couvrir le coût d'une telle aventure?

«-Eh bien, cher Gorb, j'aimerais d'abord corriger vos informations. Ces princes-là avaient bien, avant la crise, sept cents milliards. Depuis, ce montant a bien diminué. De toute façon, les princes ne regardent pas du tout à la dépense. Ce qu'ils veulent c'est faire tomber Saddam à n'importe quel prix, quitte à hypothéquer toute leur production pétrolière, pour les dix ans, voire les vingt ans à venir.

«-Revenons à nos moutons, George. Puisque vous n'avez pas l'intention de faire la guerre, pourquoi n'avez-vous pas saisi notre proposition de tenir une conférence internationale sur le Moyen-Orient, proposition que j'ai laissée à Chevermadz d'annoncer il y a quelques jours?

«-Permettez-moi de vous dire, Gorb, que vous avez commis là une erreur monumentale! Pourquoi donc voulez-vous associer la France, la Chine et la Grande-Bretagne à une telle conférence? N'avions-nous pas convenu à Washington que le Moyen-Orient devait rester propriété américaine exclusive?

«-Oui, bien sûr. Mais comment comptez-vous traiter avec l'Irak, au point où en sont arrivées vos relations avec Saddam?

«-Chaque chose en son temps, Gorb. L'important pour le moment est que les Etats-Unis arrivent à contrôler complètement le pétrole du Moyen-Orient. Vous y gagnerez, d'ailleurs!

«-Franchement, George, je ne vois pas comment!

«-Cher Gorb, quand tout le pétrole du Moyen-Orient sera sous notre contrôle, nous réglerons la production de façon à faire augmenter peu à peu les prix. Comme vous êtes exportateur de brut et de gaz, ça vous fera des rentrées inespérées en devises, dont vous avez tant besoin.

«-Là, George, je ne comprends plus rien! Votre pays est le plus gros importateur de brut et de gaz et vous me dites que vous comptez faire grimper les prix du pétrole!

«-Vieux Gorb, ne vous en faites surtout pas pour nous! Nous prendrons tout le pétrole dont on aura besoin pour rien. Nous prendrons également une bonne partie des recettes provenant de la vente du pétrole aux autres pays, en échange de nos vieux stocks d'armes (devenus inutilisés depuis qu'on est devenu copains tous les deux). Ceux qui feront les frais de l'augmentation des prix, ce seront surtout les pays du Marché Commun et le Japon. Il faut avouer que ces pays sont devenus économiquement très florissants et il est grand temps qu'on commence à leur mettre des bâtons dans les roues.

«-La Grande-Bretagne, elle, va profiter de l'augmentation des prix du pétrole. Ça ne vous inquiète pas un peu?

«-La Grande-Bretagne a déjà beaucoup souffert de la politique incohérente de cette vieille hystérie qu'est Maggie. Donnons à cette dame l'occasion de gagner les prochaines élections. D'ici cinq ans, elle réussira sans doute à transformer tous les Britanniques en boogalans!

«-Mais d'autres pays souffriront aussi de l'augmentation du prix du brut.

«-Je sais bien. En ce qui con-

cerne les pays d'Europe de l'est, ce sont les pays de la Communauté Européenne qui vont les avoir sur le dos. N'était-ce pas là votre intention lorsque vous avez accepté si magnanimement de leur donner leur liberté? Quant aux pays du Tiers-Monde, eh bien qu'ils crèvent! Ça les obligera peut-être à limiter leurs naissances, ce qui ne serait pas si mauvais! De toute façon, lorsque leurs populations commenceront à mourir de faim, on pourra toujours leur envoyer un peu de farine et de lait en poudre.

«-Ca me semble tenir. Autre chose, maintenant qu'on essaie de redorer le blason de l'ONU, ne pensez-vous pas qu'il est devenu grand temps de résoudre les questions palestiniennes et libanaises?

«-A vous parler franchement, j'aimerais bien pouvoir résoudre le problème palestinien. Israël commence à nous coûter de plus en plus cher (près de sept milliards rien que pour l'année en cours) et, en échange, elle ne nous rapporte pratiquement rien maintenant, que des problèmes. A propos, ne pourriez-vous pas retarder un peu l'émigration des Juifs de votre pays vers Israël?

«-Ah non! Vous savez très bien que les Juifs ont toujours constitué une cinquième colonne chez nous et, entre nous, nous sommes tous bien contents de les voir partir! Mais pourquoi me demandez-vous cela?

«-Je ne vois plus aucun intérêt à augmenter la population juive en Israël. Au contraire, ça va nous coûter encore plusieurs milliards supplémentaires. Je vais voir si on ne peut pas accélérer nos émigrations vers l'Australie ou vers les Maldives.

«-Pourquoi ne les prendriez-vous pas chez vous?

«-Ah non merci! Nous avons déjà plus de huit millions de Juifs chez nous, et franchement on aurait mieux aimé ne pas en avoir du tout! Pour en revenir au problème palestinien, je vous disais tout à l'heure qu'Israël n'était plus rentable. Elle devra pour se débrouiller toute seule et apprendre à ne plus compter sur

nous. Le seul moyen d'en arriver là est qu'elle fasse, coûte que coûte, la paix avec ses voisins. J'ai la ferme intention d'exercer les pressions nécessaires pour en arriver là.

«-Le lobby juif vous en empêchera certainement!

«-Ce fameux lobby juif! Eh bien, on le brisera s'il le faut. Business is business. Ne croyez-vous pas que les intérêts d'une petite minorité doivent être subordonnés à ceux d'une grande puissance?

«-Pour en revenir au Golfe... Il faudrait mieux laisser traîner les choses encore quelques semaines pour deux raisons: la première est qu'il faut nous donner encore un peu de temps pour délester les princes du pétrole de quelques milliards, tant qu'ils restent disposés à payer; la seconde est qu'il faut laisser au Koweït le temps de se vider complètement de tous les étrangers qui y vivaient. Un pays vide, prêt à absorber deux ou trois millions d'habitants, pourrait s'avérer d'une grande utilité dans une solution globale des problèmes intriqués du Moyen-Orient.

«-Croyez-vous que vos cent mille hommes pourront tenir dans les déserts d'Arabie encore plusieurs semaines?

«-Vous me décevez là, vieux Gorb! Si nous avons annoncé avoir cent mille hommes dans la région, c'est bien pour les besoins des factures que nous envoyons aux princes du pétrole! Je ne demande ce que font vos services d'espionnage si vous ne connaissez pas le nombre exact d'hommes que nous avons là-bas! Mais, quoi qu'il en soit, toutes nos forces seront graduellement remplacées par des forces égyptiennes, palestinaises ou bengalaises. Quant aux cadres, on les recrutera en Israël. Cela permettra à tout le monde de se faire un peu de sous!

«-Le nombre que m'ont communiqué mes services de renseignement était tellement faible que j'ai préféré que vous me le confirmiez!»

Sabri Farah

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Enfants au cinéma

Compagnons à couteaux tirés

Le deuxième film présenté au festival du Cinéma français, Je suis le seigneur du château (1989), mérite attention.

Réalisé par Régis Wargnier, le film, présenté au Centre culturel royal, le mardi 18 septembre, décrit la rencontre de deux garçons pré-adolescents et de caractères opposés. Thomas Breaud, fils de châtelain, a une nature hautaine et vicieuse. La nature de Charles Vernet, fils de la gouvernante du premier, est généreuse et sensible à la violence. Poussé à bout, il ne manque pourtant pas de courage et fait preuve de malin. Thomas est riche, Charles pauvre. Leurs rapports constituent le sujet du film.

Renforçant cette conjugaison troublée, les deux enfants partagent un terrible manque: celui de parents absents. Le père de Charles est disparu; la mère de Thomas est morte. Ils sont remplacés, dans un arrangement estival, par le châtelain (Jean Rochefort) et la gouvernante (Dominique Blanc). L'amour et la rationalité des grands sont constamment minés par les brusques irruptions des garçons. Dominés par leur amour pour les enfants, ils se trouvent écartelés entre des sentiments contraires. Quand les deux adultes décideront de se marier, les conséquences seront tragiques.

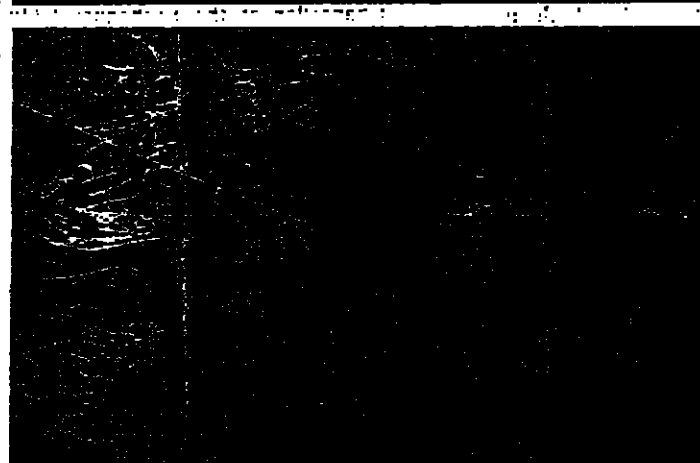
Drame psychologique bien joué, le film de Wargnier veut montrer qu'il y a des sentiments irremplaçables dans toute vie, quelle que soit l'évolution des circonstances. Wargnier (scénariste avec Alain Le Henry) a un sens très fin des accords et des trahisons auxquels les gosses sont confrontés et se sert du décor pour approfondir notre connaissance de leur psychologie. Il fait valoir les lieux du château et du bois qui l'entoure. Chacun est un domaine ou un des garçons se sent maître. Peu à peu, on prend conscience de la dépendance du plus hautain, tandis que Charles, d'apparence timide et réservée, se révèle le plus indépendant. Pour mettre en valeur ces évolutions, Régis Wargnier adopte une technique très puissante. La violence va crescendo et chaque pointe est suivie d'une séquence au ralenti qui dépeint l'évolution psychologique de ces quatre personnages en situation de crise intense.

Le jeu naturel de Régis Arpin (Thomas Breaud) et de David Béhar (Charles Vernet), capté par l'éclairage et lucide cadrage de François Catonne, nous aide à avoir une vue absolument nette des moyens parfois physiques (combats à l'épée) ou psychologiques (rappels mutuels au parent disparu) qui sont l'enjeu de leurs joutes cruelles et des sentiments effrayants qu'ils découvrent.

Un film de style et de substance.

Sami Kamal

EXPOSITIONS



Peinture. Une artiste contemporaine présente ses tableaux au Centre Culturel Français. Peintre des signes, des traces, des mémoires, son langage pictural fait revivre les langages de civilisations disparues. Ni abstraite ni figurative, mais «matérialiste», Yo Marchand sculpte sa peinture autant qu'elle la peint. Ses œuvres appellent autant le toucher que le regard, comme une écriture Braille venue des temps les plus anciens pour les aveugles: «Je nous sommes». Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'à la fin du mois.

Mots croisés

par Florence Montali

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.
1: appréciés par le plus grand nombre. 2: petits d'ours; prout prout. 3: toujours plus; c'est le premier qui coûte. 4: peuple le fort; en tenue d'Adam. 5: cochons; compté en nombre d'années. 7: de bonne heure; source d'énergie. 8: privés de leur liberté. 9: lion romain. 10: plantes laxatives; érodes.

Verticalement.
A: virtuel. B: alternatif; marque le féminin. C: prudence ou grand soin. D: us; Orion. E: courtes. F: période; lentilles. G: l'api en grec. H: le premier département français. I: serrera au point d'étouffer. J: prout prout; sont provoqués par les grosses chaleurs.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.
1: populaires. 2: ours; us. 4: encore; pas. 5: arbre; us. 6: trues; l'api. 7: l'api; us. 8: internes. 9: l'api. 10: érodes; us.

Verticalement.
A: potentiels. B: ou. C: précaution. D: us; Orion. E: courtes. F: us; us. G: l'api; us. H: us. I: us. J: us.

CINEMA

FESTIVAL DU FILM FRANCAIS

Trois films sont proposés cette semaine par le Centre culturel français (au Centre culturel royal) pour célébrer le nouveau cinéma français. L'année 1989 nous a offert, en effet, des merveilles d'écriture cinématographique. Ses films sont compris comme porteurs d'une jeunesse et d'un cinéma qui veulent faire bouger les choses, tout en conservant une certaine tradition:

«Le beau mariage». Film d'Eric Rohmer, avec André Dussolier et Arielle Dombasle. Sabine, étudiante, rompt avec son amant, un peintre qui a femme et enfant, et décide de se marier.

Centre culturel royal, le lundi 17 septembre, à 18h et 20h.

«Je suis le seigneur du château». Film de Régis Wargnier, avec Jean Rochefort. L'affrontement cruel de deux enfants. Voir FOCUS.

Centre culturel royal, le mardi 18 septembre, à 18h et 20h.

«L'enfance de l'art». Film de Francis Girod, avec Clotilde Bayser et Michel Bompoll. Une année de la vie d'une promotion d'élèves au conservatoire.

Centre culturel royal, le mercredi 19 septembre, à 18h et 20h.

Les films sont en français et sous-titrés en arabe. Les billets sont disponibles au CCF pour 10 dinars. Demandez-les aux étudiants.

«The Quiet Man». L'hommage de John Ford à l'Irlande, à sa pauvreté et à sa fierté, que ses parents lui avaient appris à aimer. Le film montre un village de Galway à travers les yeux d'un ex-bouvier américain, revenu dans son pays natal à la recherche d'une épouse.

Centre américain, le dimanche 16 septembre, à 19h00.

«Gregory's girl». Gregory, 16 ans, adore le football mais agace son entraîneur par son attitude hargneuse lorsque l'équipe perd. Ce dernier décide de le remplacer par une jeune fille qui vient de poser sa candidature. Gregory tombe amoureux d'elle, mais, timide, n'ose lui en parler que sur les conseils de sa sœur.

Centre britannique, le mercredi 19 septembre, à 18h.

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h45 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.
18h15 - Lyndie est toujours en vadrouille. Documentaire.
18h30 - Ca c'est du cinéma. Série documentaire les techniques du cinéma.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h05 - Les oiseaux d'Eléonore. Documentaire sur les oiseaux.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h15 - Kusan, le maître des neuf montagnes. Documentaire sur le temple de Kusan, en Corée du sud.
18h30 - Des chiffres et des lettres.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h05 - Les défilés de l'océan. Série documentaire sur la vie sous-marine.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de musique classique.

JEUDI

18h20 - «Molierissimo»: dessin animé.
18h40 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Reportage sur la Grande-Bretagne.

VENREDI

17h25 - «Il était une fois un fil». Film, avec Mireille Darc, Michel Constantin et Michael Lonsdale.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Les révolutions de l'intelligence. Série documentaire sur l'histoire de la science. Aujourd'hui: les machines à communiquer: téléphone, télégraphe, etc.

SAMEDI

18h05 - Images et réalités. Documentaire sur le sens de la vue. Aujourd'hui: les ordinateurs.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France. Magazine culturel.

DIVERS

Histoire. Série documentaire télévisée en quatre parties sur l'histoire de la fusion de l'empire de Bourgogne avec celui des Flandres, entre 1360 et 1530. Deux derniers épisodes cette semaine: «Charles le Téméraire» et «Marie de Bourgogne et Marguerite d'Autriche». Centre culturel français les 20 et 22 septembre respectivement, à 16h ou sur demande.

Shakespeare. Projection vidéo de pièces de Shakespeare filmées par la BBC. Cette semaine: la deuxième partie d'«Othello» et «Le roi Lear».

Centre britannique, le dimanche 16 pour la première pièce et le samedi 22 pour la seconde, à 17h dans les deux cas.

JEUX

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

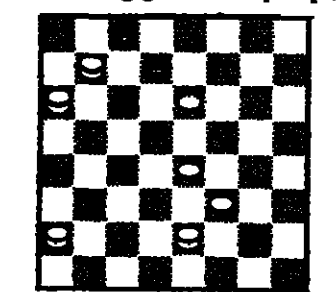
PANDAS. Le Fonds Mondial pour la Nature (WWF) a demandé au gouvernement japonais de ne pas accorder de permis d'importation à deux zoos, en pourparlers avec la Chine pour la location de pandas. Il ne reste guère plus d'un millier de pandas en Chine, le seul pays où l'on trouve cet animal, qui se reproduit très mal en captivité. Pour répondre à un engouement croissant du public pour les pandas, la Chine a commencé il y a quelques années à louer des pandas à des zoos étrangers pour des périodes de trois à quatre mois.

SECURITE. L'Italie, contrairement à une idée reçue et malgré la montée en puissance de la mafia, reste l'un des pays de la Communauté Européenne où le nombre de crimes est le plus faible par rapport à la population globale. Avec 2,5 homicides pour 100.000 habitants en 1989, l'Italie arrive loin derrière le Luxembourg (11,8 crimes), le Danemark (5,2), le Portugal (4,5) ou la RFA (4).

DAMES

Problème N. 28.

Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.



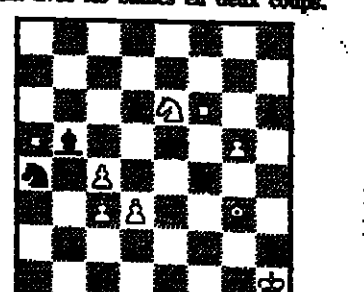
Solution du problème N. 27:

B. 16-20; N. 6-24; B. 27-30; N. 18-20; B. 30-21; N. 4-18; B. 21-7.

ECHECS

Problème N. 28.

Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 27:

De1-f1.

IMF threatens to expel Sudan

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned Sudan Friday that it could be kicked out of the organisation if it fails to pay the group the money it owes.

Monetary officials denied that the warning was meant to punish Sudan for its criticism of the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf.

"This is a problem that has been six years in the making," said one official, who declined to be identified.

Sudan owes the fund about

\$1.3 billion and has been behind on its payments since 1984.

"If Sudan does not resume active cooperation with the fund in seeking a solution to the problem... the fund will give consideration to the initiation of further measures (against the country)," the IMF said in a statement.

Formed some 45 years ago, the IMF acts as a sort of policeman for the world economy and has over 150 member nations.

This is only the second time that the IMF has warned a country that it could be expelled.

Liberia received a similar warning in March for being behind its payments.

Sudan, a poor North African country, has remained largely sympathetic to Iraq since Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait, but it has denied reports that Iraq deployed troops and missiles in Sudan before invading Kuwait.

The IMF said that the country has paid off some of its other creditors, even though as a member of the fund it is supposed to clear its arrears with the organisation first.

Rich countries refuse to double aid to poor

PARIS (R) — Wealthy nations have agreed to try to lift the world's poorest countries out of misery, but failed to meet their demands to double financial aid.

The United States' rejection of a fixed aid target forced the second United Nations conference on the least developed countries (LDCs) to compromise Friday and let wealthy countries set their own donations for the rest of the century.

The LDCs had asked them to spend 0.2 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) on aid — double the average they got in the past decade as they sank deeper into debt.

Dutch Development Minister Jan Pronk said the compromise on a "menu" set of options still committed donors to raise aid. He called it a breakthrough as it included the United States which had refused any commitment at the first conference in 1981.

"The outcome of the menu is a good meal. It has got meat," he told the meeting.

Disputes on aid and debt relief held up the closing session of the two-week conference for several hours.

The meeting dropped a request to the Paris Club of creditor countries to consider writing off the LDCs' debts altogether.

But it urged the Paris Club to consider extending to all LDCs the Group of Seven industrialised countries' 1988 Toronto agreement to write off one third, or reschedule at preferential rates, certain debts of sub-Saharan African countries.

Pronk said countries choosing the most generous option pledged

to spend at least 0.2 per cent of their GNP on aid.

Two of the world's richest countries, the United States and Japan, merely promised to try to increase aid.

"The good, the bad and the ugly," was how one African delegate described the options. "Few LDCs will be satisfied. The ugly will stay ugly."

In 1981 the United Nations set an annual aid target of 0.15 per cent of GNP for industrialised countries, but few reached it.

Squeezed between rising debt, falling commodity prices and a population boom, the LDCs, most of them African, have become ever poorer.

The average per capita income of their 420 million people fell to \$277. Their number grew from 29 to 42, including recently-independent Namibia which joined the list Friday.

"The deterioration in the economic, social and ecological situation of most of the LDCs during the 1980s is not irreversible," the conference's final declaration said.

But delegates said the oil price rise caused by the Gulf crisis was bound to further impoverish the LDCs, and Pronk said funds originally earmarked for them would now be diverted to the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands are among the most generous nations.

The second category are countries such as France and Italy which promised to reach the 0.2 per cent target by the turn of the century. The third are those which pledged to reach 0.15 per cent within five years.

World Bank to boost loans to Mideast and E. Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank plans to increase its lending to Eastern Europe and the Middle East over the coming year and is exploring ways of helping countries hurt by the financial fall-out from the Gulf crisis, a senior official said Friday.

Vice President Willi Wapenhans told reporters that bank loans to Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa will rise to at least \$5 billion in 1990-91 from \$4.4 billion in the fiscal year that ended last June 30.

"Many (of the economies of that region) will experience major deterioration" because of the financial fall-out from Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, he said.

Besides the impact of higher oil prices, countries like Jordan and Turkey stand to lose both export revenues from the ban on trade with Baghdad and cash remittances from their citizens who had been working in Kuwait and Iraq.

Wapenhans said the bank may be able to help by speeding up loan approvals and disburse-

ments. It might also be able to work with Egypt to help that country absorb returning workers.

But much of the help will have to come from major nations like Japan and the United States, which can give countries like Egypt money outright rather than lending it cash at relatively high interest rates.

"It is crucial that international efforts get under way to mobilise the large additional assistance needed," Wapenhans said.

"The bulk of the assistance will have to be on concessional (low-cost) terms as the capacity of most of the bank's borrowers to absorb increased debt is rather limited."

He said that major nations could help by forgiving some of the debts they are owed by countries hit hard by the Gulf crisis.

The U.S. administration has already decided to write off more than \$7 billion in debt owed the United States by Egypt for the purchase of military equipment and has urged other major nations to follow suit.

"The U.S. initiative... seems to

provide a promising opening," Wapenhans said.

Jordan will be hardest hit by the economic fall-out from the Gulf crisis and could lose up to a quarter of its total annual economic output, or gross domestic product, without taking account of higher oil prices. Egypt and Turkey will also be affected.

As major oil importers, the countries of Eastern Europe will also suffer.

Even before the crisis, they were facing an oil shock of sorts because the Soviet Union was cutting back on oil deliveries to Eastern Europe and planning on making the nations there pay higher prices for their oil.

Wapenhans said the World Bank plans to increase its lending to Eastern Europe to \$2.5 billion in 1990-91, from \$1.8 billion last fiscal year.

He added that he expects both Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia to join the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at both organisations' annual meeting later this month.

Air fares to rise in U.S. next month

NEW YORK (R) — Three major U.S. airlines said Friday they would raise domestic ticket prices by 4.2 per cent next month to take account of soaring jet fuel prices.

The price increases which will affect American Airlines, Continental Airlines and USAir came a day after identical measures announced by Delta Air Lines Inc.

It is the second price increase in the struggling U.S. air industry since Iraq invaded Kuwait, sending energy prices sharply higher and pressuring airlines' profits.

The four carriers, which control about half of the domestic U.S. air market, said travelers would pay more to fly starting Oct. 1.

Arlington, Virginia-based USAir said it must charge customers more in order to recover higher fuel price increases, while a spokesman at Houston-based Continental noted that fuel costs had risen 74 per cent in one month.

Thursday, Atlanta-based Delta said the carrier's fuel costs had risen 33 cents a gallon since the end of July, representing an increase of \$670 million in annual costs.

All of the major U.S. carriers raised prices by 5.3 per cent Aug. 30, faced with a huge rally in oil prices.

Fuel is an airline's second-biggest expense after labour, with a \$3 barrel increase in oil resulting in a rise of 11 cents a gallon in jet fuel costs.

'OPEC will stay around'

BRUSSELS, Belgium, (AP) — OPEC marked its 30th anniversary Friday with its top official predicting the oil-producing organisation would survive the Gulf crisis that has badly tarnished its image.

"A world without OPEC is unthinkable for as long as oil continues to provide the prime source of energy," said Subroto, secretary-general of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"OPEC will stay around. We have survived crises before... surely, we'll survive this also. All disputes ultimately get resolved," he said in an anniversary message carried by the group's OPECNA news agency.

In his statement, Subroto said the group's objectives remain sound. They include coordinating oil policies of member nations, steadying the world market, ensuring a constant flow of oil revenues to members and maintaining an adequate supply of crude for consumers.

Inflation in Britain jumps above 10 %

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher suffered a political setback Friday as British inflation broke above the psychologically important 10 per cent mark to an eight-year high.

Financial analysts saw the jump, resulting from higher food and fuel prices, as a further sign of deep-rooted trouble in the British economy, which is already straining under high interest rates, growing unemployment and a poor trade performance.

Government figures issued Friday showed the main measure of inflation, the retail price index, registered a year-on-year rise of 10.6 per cent in August, up from 9.8 per cent in June and July and the highest since early 1982.

The rise made it unlikely that Britain would join eight other European Community partners in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System in the near future, economists said.

The government repeated Friday that inflation must fall sharply before it can enter the ERM.

Kuwait grants Turkey \$300m

ANKARA (R) — Kuwait's toppled government gave Turkey a grant of \$300 million Friday to partly offset Ankara's losses from joining a trade embargo against Iraq, a senior Turkish treasury official said.

"The grant of \$300 million will probably be handed over today," the official who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

The Kuwaiti aid will be the first actual compensation paid to Turkey although the European Community (EC) and Japan have pledged to help counter Ankara's losses.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said in Tokyo Friday Japan would provide \$600 million as soon as possible to Egypt, Turkey and Jordan as part of \$2 billion earmarked for the three frontline states.

Turkey's economic sanctions, including stopping the flow of Iraqi oil through pipelines to the Mediterranean are likely to cost Ankara up to \$7 billion a year.

Worries grow over economy plan

Israel shuts stock exchange

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv stock exchange will stay shut Sunday to give nervous investors time to digest a radical economic plan that includes new taxes on share dealing profits, its managing director said Friday.

The news came as the government said a sharp rise in housing costs — under pressure from a huge wave of mainly Soviet Jewish immigrants — had pushed up inflation in August.

Consumer prices rose 1.6 per cent in August, boosting annual inflation to 17.9 per cent from July's 17.5 per cent.

The government Thursday announced an economic plan designed to spur growth and help meet the costs of one million immigrants expected over the next five years.

The plan, announced after the stock market closed for the weekend, unveiled a 20 per cent tax on corporations' profits from

share dealings and a similar tax on real interest earned in personal savings schemes including stock and bond investments.

Stock exchange chief Yossi Nitani said the exchange would not open as usual Sunday because of investor worries over the new package.

"We are allowing investors a long weekend, both to give us time to collect information but also to clarify information in the media that is not fully clear or precise," he told Israel radio.

He said he would explain to private investors thinking of pulling out of the market that the savings tax, which Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai enacted immediately after Thursday's cabinet approval, did not apply to existing savings plans.

The capital gains tax on stocks, which has not taken effect, applies to corporations only and not individuals unless they sell at least a 10 per cent stake in a firm.

Some bank officials expressed concern that the new tax would discourage personal savings and investment in direct opposition to the economic plan's aim.

Modai's capital market and trade reforms are designed to boost private investment and open the economy to foreign capital.

The treasury hopes for 8.5 per cent annual growth in gross domestic product, 10 per cent annual business sector growth and \$8 billion of investment each year through 1994. The plan also aims to create some 500,000 jobs.

This year's influx of 100,000 immigrants, including 90,000 Soviet Jews, has sent rents soaring and caused a housing shortage.

Trade union officials and industrialists expressed fears of a new surge in inflation that would undermine the new economic measures.

High oil costs fuel U.S. inflation

WASHINGTON (R) — An explosion in oil costs sent wholesale inflation soaring in August and dampened consumer spending, the government said Friday, providing the first hard look at how the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait damaged an already weak U.S. economy.

"If you are leaning towards a recessionary view of the economy, these numbers don't discourage you from that," said Nicholas Perna, chief economist at Shawmut Corp.

The producer price index, which measures the cost of goods at all stages of production before reaching consumers, jumped 1.3 per cent as expected, reversing

the 0.1 per cent July decline, the Labour Department said.

It was the sharpest climb since a 1.9 per cent rise in January, when a winter freeze sent energy costs spiralling.

The Middle East oil shock, the worst in a decade, also caused consumers to curtail their spending. Retail sales slumped in August to 0.6 per cent, after a 0.4 per cent July rise, the Commerce Department said.

"People are filling up the gas tank and they have no money left over for much else," said Davis Wyss, economist at Data Resources Inc.

Excluding the increased purchases of more expensive petrol,

retail sales last month dropped even further — a discouraging 1.1 per cent. Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of all U.S. economic growth, so the sales decline is worrisome.

In yet another sign of a weakening economy, industrial production in August dipped by 0.2 per cent after unchanged results the prior month, the Federal Reserve Board said. In the past 12 months, factories have increased production at a dull 1.5 per cent rate.

For the first eight months of this year, producer prices have climbed 4.6 per cent, slightly above the 4.5 per cent rate for the same period last year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Saturday, September 15, 1990	Deutschemark	418.9	421.4
Central Bank official rates	Swiss franc	507.6	510.6
	French franc	125.2	126.0
	Japanese yen (for 100)	480.7	483.6
	Dutch guilder	372.1	374.3
	Swedish crown	114.6	115.3
	Italian lira (for 100)	56.1	56.4
	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.9	205.1
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	657.0	661.0	
Pound Sterling	1245.7	1253.2	

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Madeline Tabar
in
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571
ALJOLLA
Amitabh Bachhan
in
GIANT REVENGE
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAJABOON
Indiana Jones
in
TEMPLE OF DOOM
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PARADELPHIA
MYSTIC PIZZA
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238
PIAZA
THE PICK UP ARTIST
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

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S. African police unveil 'iron fist' crackdown on township war

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police unveiled an iron fist crackdown on South Africa's township war Saturday, announcing curfews, roadblocks and the drafting of provincial and reserve police into Johannesburg to curb killer mobs.

"The iron fist will come into operation. The police and defence force will definitely stop this intolerable violence," Major-General Gerrit Erasmus, commissioner of police for the Johannesburg area, told a news conference.

"If Mr. Mandela wants an iron fist we will give him an iron fist," Erasmus said. "The purpose of roadblocks is to curb these killer mobs. I issue a stern warning to all these attackers not to try and hide... they will be taken out."

Police say 757 people have been killed in five weeks of spear and gun battles between township residents loyal to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Zulu migrant workers sympathetic to the Inkatha Movement of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mandela's main black rival.

A spokesman for the ANC, the main anti-apartheid group, said if iron fist had come into effect from the start of the unrest many lives would have been saved.

Most of the plan is due to take effect next week after receiving formal cabinet approval. But Erasmus said some roadblocks were set up Friday evening and arms seized.

Mandela, ANC deputy president, called Friday for tougher action, including use of troops, by the white-led government to curb the violence.

He said a covert right-wing group was stoking the township war to derail his negotiations on political reform with President F.W. de Klerk.

Mandela has accused the government of standing back while blacks kill each other in the eastern province of Natal and in the townships around Johannesburg.

Last month the white government tried to quell the unrest by giving police emergency powers in 27 townships and calling up military reserves. The measures had only temporary effect.

Erasmus said hostels — flashpoints of fighting — and squatter camps would be sealed off with razor wire. Police checkpoints would be established at their entrances to ensure no-one went through carrying weapons.

There are about 31 single-sex hostels in the Johannesburg area housing 125,000 migrant workers.

many of them Zulus. Many township residents say the hostels are breeding grounds for violence and should be closed or turned into married quarters.

Erasmus said light machine guns would be installed on police armoured cars to protect police. Details of curfews to be imposed still had to be worked out, but shift workers would require a permit to travel at night.

Police checkpoints would be set up at train stations to curb a recent spate of attacks on commuters.

Erasmus said that under iron fist, police reserves would be called up and regular officers would be drawn from around the country to reinforce police in the Johannesburg region.

Pretoria says black leaders are not doing enough to control their supporters and urges Mandela to meet Buthelezi for talks.

The ANC accuses Inkatha of trying to shoot its way into negotiations on a black-ruled South Africa and says a black "summit" with Mandela would give Buthelezi undue prominence.

Erasmus said he understood iron fist was part of a comprehensive peace plan de Klerk had proposed to Mandela when the two men held crisis talks Friday.

ANC spokesman Saki Macomoza told Reuters he had no word on whether Mandela approved the measures. Mandela might find it difficult to persuade township residents that iron fist's more stringent measures were necessary, he said.

"What bothers me is that the onus of acceptability of this rests on Mr. Mandela, because whatever actions he takes he has to explain politically to his constituency," he said.

"I feel also that some of these measures could have been taken weeks back and a lot of lives could have been saved."

"Some of the things we will have no difficulty with, such as the cordoning off of the hostels — those things we asked for right from the beginning."

Mandela has blamed the government for fuelling violence in the black townships and said a "full-scale civil war" could develop.

Mandela, in a speech at a synagogue Friday night, issued a harsh attack on the government.

Police Saturday said the townships were quiet overnight. But Associated Press staffers witnessed an unnamed black being stoned, stabbed and set alight at a train station in Soweto Saturday.



A burnt corpse of an ANC supporter is watched by Zulus after overnight tribal clashes in Soweto

... that the police and sectors of the government are working with a variety of vigilantes," said Mandela.

Police Saturday said the townships were quiet overnight. But Associated Press staffers witnessed an unnamed black being stoned, stabbed and set alight at a train station in Soweto Saturday.

The attackers said they were supporters of the ANC and the victim was a Zulu loyal to Inkatha.

"Forces determined to wreck the peace process have implemented a strategy of destabilisation, which has resulted in the very real and terrifying prospect of full-scale civil war," Mandela

said. Mandela received warm applause following his speech at Temple Shalom in a white suburb of Johannesburg. He has generally good relations with Jewish groups in South Africa despite his support for Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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Future of nuclear treaty uncertain as Geneva review ends in failure

GENEVA (R) — A row between the United States and a group of Non-Aligned nations has threatened the future of a 20-year-old treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons, diplomats said Saturday.

At stake is Third World insistence on a total nuclear test ban within five years.

A month-long review of progress towards nuclear disarmament ended here in deadlock.

Delegates from over 100 of the 140 countries that signed the pact failed to adopt a final declaration on their work early Saturday after a bitter all-night session.

The United States and a Non-Aligned group, led by Mexico, clashed on achieving a complete nuclear test ban, a key provision of the treaty.

The United States, insisting a ban on testing remained a long-term goal, cited progress in nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union as evidence of steps

in the right direction.

"The United States cannot commit itself to stopping nuclear testing by 1995 when two nuclear powers remain outside the treaty," conference Chairman Oswaldo de Rivero of Peru said.

He referred to France and China, two of the world's five nuclear arms powers, which are carrying out routine nuclear tests and have not signed the treaty. They attended as observers for the first time.

But Mexico's chief delegate Miguel Marin retorted that Non-Aligned nations could not approve a declaration which did not include a firm U.S. commitment to move towards a ban on nuclear testing.

The conference ended in stalemate after an all-night session and despite strenuous efforts by De Rivero, the Peruvian ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, to iron out differences between the U.S. and Mexican

positions.

De Rivero said it was all the more disappointing since delegates had agreed 95 per cent of the draft declaration, which should have been approved by consensus.

The treaty, initially signed by the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain, was designed to foster peaceful cooperation in the use of nuclear technology while preventing its spread to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Altogether 140 nations have since signed the pact which is reviewed every five years.

Each review, including the latest one, has concluded that there was no evidence to suggest diversion to military use by any signatory nation.

This was only the second time the review conference ended without a final declaration on how member countries complied and recommendations to make the pact more effective.

U.S. to keep troops in Philippines if welcomed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government wants to keep U.S. soldiers based in the Philippines as long as they're welcome, the State Department has said after a congressman said U.S. negotiators likely will propose a 10-year phase out of the American bases there.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher declined to discuss U.S. negotiating positions in talks expected to open next week in Manila on the future of two of the United States largest foreign bases.

"We will continue to support a U.S. military presence in the Philippines if we are welcome to do by the Philippines," he said. "We feel it would be premature to speculate on the outcome of the negotiations before the two sides meet."

The talks cover an agreement that allows unlimited U.S. access to Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller facilities until Sept. 16, 1991.

On Thursday, Rep. Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, said he had talked with U.S. negotiators who he said are considering a 10-year phase out.

"I have the impression that this is a timetable they are comfortable with and likely to propose," he said in a telephone interview.

The Washington Post, citing congressional and administration sources, reported Friday that the United States will seek a phase out of the bases in the Manila talks.

If U.S. negotiators seek a definite end to the bases agreement, it would be a departure from longstanding U.S. assertion that the bases are vital to U.S. and regional defence interests. The administration has said that if the bases are not wanted they will go.

E. German official stripped of secret police dissolution duties

EAST BERLIN (AP) — An East German official in charge of dissolving the secret police was stripped of those duties Friday after lawmakers criticised him for keeping ex-agents on his payroll.

Premier Lothar de Maiziere relieved Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel of responsibility for a committee probing the dreaded security arm of the old Communist regime, a spokeswoman said.

The change was the latest development in a chaotic government that will soon be out of business when West Germany assumes control of the economically reeling country on Oct. 3, the formal date of German unification.

Parliament spent the better part of a 14-hour session on Thursday debating the recent

allegations that the government was still rife with Stasi agents.

However, a vote to demand Diestel's resignation failed after De Maiziere defended the interior minister, who also is the deputy premier.

De Maiziere relieved Diestel of his duties in an effort to calm the political crisis, Merkel said. Diestel has become a focal point for lawmakers seeking a more aggressive purge of the old security apparatus.

Merkel also said that De Maiziere would authorise an investigation of his cabinet ministers after the head of a previous committee investigating the Stasi said that four ministers had worked for the secret police.

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Hun Sen rejects Sihanouk as Supreme Council's 13th member

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodian Premier Hun Sen said Saturday that guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk could only join an interim governing body if he persuaded one of the other 12 members to resign.

At a Buddhist ceremony at the presidential palace in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said the prince had "cheated" him by not showing up at last week's peace talks in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"He cannot now become a 13th member of the Supreme National Council," Hun Sen said.

"There are only twelve seats at the table, so if Prince Sihanouk comes to Bangkok Monday, he will have to persuade someone else to give up his seat, or else he will have to stand," he said.

The four warring Cambodian factions announced an agreement last Monday to form a Supreme National Council. Until elections can be held, the body is intended

to represent Cambodian sovereignty under a peace plan drawn up by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

On Wednesday, Hun Sen met Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and proposed that the council's first meeting be held at the Cambodian embassy in Bangkok Monday. The embassy has been closed since the Khmer Rouge began its bloody rule of Cambodia in 1975.

The Khmer Rouge was ousted in 1978 by Vietnam's invasion, which installed the current government. The Khmer Rouge is now allied with Sihanouk's and another guerrilla faction against Hun Sen.

Phnom Penh holds six of the seats on the council and the guerrilla factions two each.

However, the agreement also allowed for the election of a

chairman who would become the 13th member of the council.

In a statement Friday, Sihanouk's office in Bangkok appealed to Hun Sen to invite the prince to be chairman.

It said the council "would not be supreme" without Sihanouk.

Hun Sen has proposed that one of Sihanouk's representatives on the council, Chhai Se Cocsal, be appointed its chairman in deference to his age and seniority. Cocsal, 85, was president of Cambodia's National Assembly under Sihanouk and had lived in retirement in Paris since the Vietnamese invasion.

Sihanouk's office quoted Cocsal as saying Friday that Sihanouk should chair the council.

Sihanouk did not attend the Monday talks, pleading illness. He subsequently announced he was taking six months leave from politics.

Soviet computer thieves erase medical data on Chernobyl victims

MOSCOW (R) — Teenage computer thieves have erased medical data on half a million people exposed to radiation in the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, TASS news agency said Friday.

The medical information on some 500,000 people and contamination data on 20,000 towns and villages was erased from floppy discs in computers stolen from the Research Institute of Radiation Treatment in Minsk, capital of the republic of Byelorussia.

TASS said the thieves had been caught and experts were trying to preserve any information left on the discs.

Soviet television reported the theft of the computers last spring and appealed to the thieves not to wipe the data from the discs.

"However, their request was not heeded," TASS said.

The erasure appeared to be a great loss for Soviet patients and doctors, as well as scientists from

around the world who are interested in monitoring the health of Chernobyl victims.

The data was also vital for research into the medical consequences of the explosion at the Ukrainian nuclear power plant, including determining any increased rate in cancer or birth defects.

In 1983 Yevgeny Chazov, who was then Soviet health minister, told a conference of Soviet and Foreign scientists that data about people affected by radioactive fallout would be available on a long-term basis.

The official death toll from the disaster was 31, but some Ukrainian parliamentary deputies have placed it as high as 300.

The explosion sent a cloud of radioactive particles over most of Europe, but Byelorussia was the hardest-hit Soviet republic. Almost one-fifth of the land was contaminated and people are still

being evacuated from radiated villages.

In August the Ukrainian parliament voted to close the power station. The news agency Postfactum said Friday that a government commission had decided it should be shut in 1995.

Litvinenko, the police official in charge of the investigation, told TASS that all the teenagers involved have been arrested, but did not give an exact number. He said the software was stolen to get money.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov Friday rejected recent reports in the Western media that there could be another nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Gerasimov told a Moscow news conference that a concrete block, reinforced with metal rods, had been erected after the accident to prevent the escape of radiation.

U.S. shuttle heads for fourth launch attempt

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — NASA countdown clocks started early Saturday as the space shuttle Columbia headed for its fourth launch attempt since May.

The countdown began at 1 a.m. EDT (0500 GMT). The shuttle will lift off on its nine-day astronomy mission at 1:28 a.m. EDT (0528 GMT) Tuesday if crews at the Kennedy Space Centre can complete pre-flight chores without running into more technical trouble.

"We'd like to see a launch as soon as possible. It's been a long, dry summer for us," said Lisa Malone, a spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Seven astronauts, including four astronauts who will operate the \$148-million Astro Observatory in Columbia's cargo bay, were expected to return to Florida from their training base in Houston by Sunday.

Frustrating fuel leaks and electronic bugs in a shuttle telescope have kept Columbia on the ground for repairs and forced NASA to start its launch countdown for the third time in three weeks.

The shuttle has been fitted with a new fuel pipe and three new

fuel pumps in efforts to stop the dangerous hydrogen propellant leak that halted launch attempts on May 29 and Sept. 5.

But traces of a leak are still evident in certain tests and engineers will not know whether the repairs worked until the shuttle is fuelled Monday, according to NASA.

The broad band X-ray telescope received a new electronics package after its communications link with the shuttle was broken, halting another launch attempt on Aug. 30. Scientists have reported no further trouble with the telescope, one of four in the observatory.

Magellan's radar turned on

Meanwhile engineers turned on Magellan's radar Friday for the first time in a month, preparing the spacecraft to start mapping the rugged landscape of cloud-covered Venus.

"I personally am excited and jumping around," said Ed Sherry, technical assistant to the Magellan project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The last and only other time

engineers used Magellan's radar was during a picture-making test on Aug. 16, only hours before they lost touch with the spacecraft for 14 hours.

Radio contact was lost again for 17 and 1-2 hours starting Aug. 21.

"I am delighted to see the blue sky that we knew was at the end of this tunnel," Sherry said Friday after engineers received confirmation that they had successfully turned on the radar.

Magellan's radar was to remain on standby until Saturday, when it will be ordered to send radar waves through Venus' thick clouds and bounce them off the rugged surface. Magellan then will collect the reflected radar echoes and send the data to Earth, where it will be made into pictures and maps.

If all goes well, NASA hopes to release new pictures of Venus early next week, Sherry said.

He cautioned that NASA may lose contact with Magellan again because engineers have yet to determine the cause of the earlier blackouts.

But they have equipped Magellan with new computer commands that should allow them to restore contact within four to 24

hours if it is lost again, then resume mapping within two weeks.

Magellan's first pictures of Venus — made during the Aug. 16 radar test — showed surprisingly violent forces shape the planet.

The pictures revealed vast flows of solidified lava, volcanic cinder cones, huge meteorite impact craters, extensive "Venus-quake" faults, numerous valleys and mountain ridges and large calderas. The calderas are volcanic craters created when the summit of a volcano collapses as lava flows out from vents on the volcano's flanks.

Sherry said that during the weekend, Magellan will fly over Ishtar Terra — a continent-like highland area about the size of Australia — and a plain on Ishtar that is named Lakshmi Planum.

Magellan went into orbit around Venus on Aug. 10 after a looping around on a voyage from Earth. It was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis on May 4, 1989.

Magellan's primary mission will last 243 days — the time it takes for Venus to rotate once as Magellan circles the planet in a nearly polar orbit.

COLUMN

X-rated film blasted at festival

VENICE (AP) — Some critics at the Venice Film Festival have blasted Henry and June, a controversial American movie about Henry Miller that has earned an "X" rating for its erotic scenes. But many critics at the festival, also have signed a petition urging the repeal of the "X" rating on grounds that it limits artistic freedom. Set in the literary scene in Paris in the 1930s, the film is based on sections of the diaries of Anaïs Nin and the autobiographical novels of Miller, an American expatriate. Both Miller and Nin were entranced with the young June Smith. "It was just a bad film," commented Irene Big-nardi, critic of Rome's La Repubblica, after the world premiere Friday. "But even Americans who are rather infantile would not be shocked by it."

"It's enough to put you off sex," quipped the Guardian's critic, Derek Malcolm. The film stars Swedish-American Anna Thurnham, whose first break came as a seduced adolescent in Stephen Frears' Dangerous Liaisons. It was directed by Philip Kaufman, whose other movies include The Unbearable Lightness of Being and The Right Stuff. Produced by Universal Pictures, the film was rated "X" last month by the U.S. Motion Pictures Association's rating board, meaning no one under 14 can be admitted for viewing. Universal was vowed to appeal the rating in an attempt to challenge the 22-year-old rating system.

Russian women seek love, marriage Italian style

FERRARA, Italy (R) — Hundreds of Russian women in search of Latin lovers and wedding rings are due to arrive in Italy later this month. An Italian lonely hearts agency said that 17 women will arrive from the Soviet Union to meet prospective husbands selected from photographs. Another 2,400 hope to meet the fain of their dreams later this year. The agency in the northern city of Ferrara said it had arranged meetings with mostly divorced or widowed Italian men seeking a "homely woman." The Russian women, contacted through a joint venture between the Italian bureau and a Moscow agency, said they wanted to "improve their social status" or merely start a new life in the West.

Woman condemned to death in videotape murder

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — A young woman has been sentenced to death for the videotaped execution of a drifter bound to a tree. Deirdre Hunt wept and bowed her head as circuit Judge S. James Foxman imposed the death penalty and six concurrent life terms. Hunt, 21; pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of Mark Kevin Ramsey, 19, and Bryan Chase, 18. Co-defendant Kosta Fotopoulos, her 31-year-old former boss and lover, also was charged with murder and was accused of videotaping Ramsey's killing last October. Hunt told the judge she killed Ramsey to save her own life. "I was confronted with a decision that Kosta Fotopoulos had absolutely already made," she said. "It was my decision of living by shooting Mark Kevin Ramsey or dying with Mark Kevin Ramsey. My decision was a choice to survive and I chose to live." The 57-second videotape, viewed last week during Hunt's six-day sentencing hearing, shows her shooting Ramsey three times in the chest, then grabbing him by the hair and delivering a final shot to the head. Ramsey believed he was being initiated into an assassin's club. Prosecutors said Fotopoulos wanted him killed because he knew about a counterfeit scheme in which Fotopoulos was involved.

Dieticians: take chicken skin off after cooking

BOSTON (R) — Cholesterol-conscious consumers are getting bad advice when told to take the skin off chicken before they cook it, dieticians at the University of Minnesota said. Linda Dielman and Beate Klinka said tests of cooked chicken show that removing the skin after cooking eliminates as much fat as removing it before cooking. "Skinning poultry before cooking leads only to a drier, though no less fatty, cooked product," they reported in a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine. The idea that chicken must be skinned first is contained in a video issued by the American Heart Association.

Guard still up against Khmer Rouge in Cambodian countryside

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia (R) — If peace is coming to Cambodia, it will be not a moment too soon for people like Phat, a poor farmer who has watched war rage around his village for most of his 25 years.

Last week its effects were felt again when government soldiers stopped to rest in his thatched hut in Kok village, Phnom Sorh district.

A Khmer Rouge patrol blasted a rocket at the house. Shrapnel hit Phat's five-year-old son, Vannak, in the eye and the stomach.

The child is now in hospital in Kompong Speu town, shivering from the damp, the pain and the fear.

Phat, speaking by his son's bedside in a ward without equipment or medicine, had not heard that the Phnom Penh government and its guerrilla opponents had agreed in Jakarta on a United Nations peace plan to end the years of war.

The very concept of peace brought a bewildered look to his face. When he was a child U.S. B-52 bombers were devastating the Cambodian countryside.

"You can still see the craters," he said.

Phat remembers the fighting between soldiers of Lon Nol's U.S.-supported government

against the Vietnamese Communists then later against the Khmer Rouge.

He was 10 when Lon Nol's government fell to Pol Pot's peasant army in 1975. As the Khmer Rouge embarked on their nightmare four-year rule, he was put into a "children's team" delivering fertilizer to the fields.

He escaped when the Khmer Rouge tried to evacuate the village as invading Vietnamese troops advanced in 1979. For the past 10 years the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and the rag-tag government army have fought it out.

Phat, dressed in rubber sandals, sarong and old shirt with the logo "zolo club" over the pocket, is typical of the Cambodian peasants whom the Khmer Rouge claim to be fighting to liberate.

He owns one pig, tills a few hectares (acres) of rice and, if he needs cash, he scavenges for firewood.

In the year since the last Vietnamese troops withdrew from Cambodia the Khmer Rouge have infiltrated deeper into Kompong Speu province, which is directly south-west of the capital.

It is a low-key war unless you are one of the victims. Dr. Hui Sun Ky said about 30 war wounded were brought to the hospital

every month, at least half of them civilians.

Some had limbs blown off by mines, others were caught in the crossfire of inconclusive skirmishes.

"It is pitiful. They come here, we have hardly enough medicine or food for them," he said as a loose-bowelled cow wandered along the ward's verandah.

"Of course we hope for peace," he said, "who wouldn't?"

Not is the town of Trapeang Kruleong letting down its guard because of the peace accord.

A district seat 20 kilometres west of Kompong Speu town on Route Four, the town was attacked by a Khmer Rouge force on the night of Aug. 16. It was the largest assault by the guerrillas on this town since 1983, said district committee member Pen Seon.

A force estimated at 200 fighters hit from four sides with machinegun and rocket fire but was beaten off after about 30 minutes, Pen Seon said.

The wooden medical dispensary was half destroyed by a rocket and its orange tile roof shattered. Bullet holes have splintered the walls of the committee's offices.

Pen Seon said two Khmer Rouge were killed and four wounded.